











LETTERS  
OF A  
SOLITARY WANDERER.  
VOL. II.



THE  
LETTERS  
OF A  
SOLITARY WANDERER:  
CONTAINING  
NARRATIVES  
OF  
VARIOUS DESCRIPTION.

---

*By* CHARLOTTE SMITH.

---

VOL. II.

---

London:  
PRINTED BY AND FOR  
SAMPSON LOW, BERWICK STREET, SOHO.

---

1800.





---

## LETTERS, &c.

---

YOU agree with me, my friend, in lamenting the evils which the superstitious folly of mankind has in so many instances brought upon them. Yet you seem to doubt whether the extraordinary calamities which I have related, as having befallen the family of Falconberg, are to be imputed solely to that cause. You say, Sir Mordaunt's insanity, and not his prejudices, was the chief source of those calamities. But is there not every reason to believe that his derangement of mind was occasioned by his bigotry, and that the men to whom he gave up the little understanding he ever possessed, found, that by influenc-

ing and irritating a disposition naturally selfish, violent, and suspicious, they should have the power to detach him from all those affections which humanize the heart, and obtain such a command over him as would throw his large property into their hands? How well they succeeded my narrative has declared. You are, however, a little disposed, I see, to cavil at the probability of my story. My good friend, is there any thing impossible in it? Unless there be, suspend awhile your desire to criticize its probabilities; and recollect how many strange things both you and I (whose ages together make not half a century) have seen, which had we read of, or been told of them, a few years ago, we should have considered as the visions of a disordered imagination.

Believe, for it is true, that Miss Falconberg still exists, or did very lately exist, in the neighbourhood of Florence; where, for aught I know, I may one day  
or

or other be tempted to seek her, and, like a wandering knight of old times, listen to the history of her sorrows, told in her own interesting words. Nay, do not begin to cry psha! and pooh! and do not write to me another long lecture on eccentricity, or hint at a suspicion that I seek a sort of solitary fame, by thinking, or at least acting, as no reasonable man ever thought or acted before. I seek no fame. Of what value would it be to me, since I should certainly never hear of it? Or wherefore should I concern myself about opinions entertained of me by half a score or half an hundred insignificant people, who, five minutes after they have most dogmatically decided on my conduct, will forget my very existence? You have asked me, my friend, if, by my desultory and wandering life, I expect to regain happiness?—Happiness? Alas! can any rational being say that he ever tasted it? I once, indeed, fondly believed it within

my grasp; but it is gone, fled for ever!—and now all I attempt is to make the life I must endure as tolerable as possible, and for this purpose I pass wherever novelty or curiosity attract me. An author, who appears to me to have been one of the most illustrious men that any age or nation has produced, says, in one of his letters written towards the end of his life, that—to the end I aim at, “*tout est bon, pourvu qu’on attrape le bout de la journée; qu’on soupe et qu’on dorme: le reste est vanité des vanités, mais l’amitié est chose véritable.*”

My life, whatever it may be to myself, is not however always useless to others; I have more than once met in my wanderings with those whose sorrows I had the power at least to suspend; while, by remarking the various miseries of life, I have learned better to endure my own. I am now therefore going.—“Going?” you will impatiently ask: “whither, and  
for

for what?" In truth, it is not always easy for me to answer those questions; but now I rather, think, however, it will be northward; and from the north-western coast of England, or from Scotland, you may perhaps hear from me again. I have some business at Liverpool, which I may as well do now as hereafter. It relates to accounts between my late father and a gentleman, the son of an old friend, who was sent from Jamaica for education, and was some time his ward. They have been long ready, and the balance long since paid; but some trifling adjustment yet remains, for which he refers me to his merchant at Liverpool. It is lucky, you will say, that I find any reason for going to one place rather than another. I own I do want motive in general to exert myself at all. How sad is the task of escaping from oneself!

## LETTER II.

Liverpool.

I PASS over my journey from my late solitary abode to this busy town, where every object is assembled that I dislike the most, and where I certainly should not have staid three hours, had I not very unexpectedly found here the young man of whom I spoke in my last letter; and still more unexpectedly discovered in him, after a very short conversation, qualities of the heart and the understanding, which I hardly expected had survived some years residence in Jamaica, and which made me wish to know more of him such as he now is; for when we last parted we were both boys. He appeared happy to see the son of a man to whom he considered himself so much obliged.

obliged. My father had, he said, been to him more than his own ; and the gratitude and tenderness with which he spoke of his guardian would alone have attached me to him more than is usual with me : but I found another reason to give up, at least for awhile, what you call, and perhaps with reason, my gloomy eccentricities, when he introduced me to his wife, whom he married in Jamaica about two years since, and on whose account principally he came to England.

I know exactly the look you will put on when you read this part of my letter ; but a truce, my friend, with your railery till you hear why I found Mrs. Denbigh singularly interesting and attractive. It was not her beauty, though she is a remarkably delicate and pretty woman ; for I can now behold the most dazzling beauty with indifference. It was not what are called accomplishments, for with those she is not eminently

B 4. provided ;



provided ; but it was a sort of tenderness of manner, without any of that affectation of peculiar softness which has so often disgusted me ; a manner which is rather to be felt than described ; and which perhaps, though it created in me a great degree of interest, might not have any effect on another. You may remember, that formerly, in our disquisitions on the characters and manners of women, I have frequently ridiculed the languid indolent style which some of them affect, and the trembling timidity which is so prettily put on by others. My friend's wife has a great deal of both these female faults ; but they are, I am now convinced, the effect of some singular circumstances of her life ; and, knowing that, her languor is not repulsive, or her timidity disgusting.

Denbigh and I had not been two days together before our former intimacy was renewed. He talked to me now of the affairs of his fortune just as he used to  
tell

tell me of his school adventures; and, on some points where he found himself in doubts, consulted me on his future proceedings. The most important of these was his design of selling his whole property in the West Indies. “ ’Tis an hereditary estate,” said he, “ and has belonged to my family ever since the first settlement of the island; but though I know, that from the utmost amount of the sale, I shall not make any thing like the income it now brings me; yet I so extremely dislike the nature of the property, that I should, I think, determine to part with it, even if my wife’s great aversion from residing there did not weigh so much with me, who cannot live without her; and know that residence alone on a plantation can make either the master rich, or his people contented.”—“ I thought,” replied I, “ that Mrs. Denbigh had been also a native of Jamaica, and had merely come to England, as you did, for education.” He answered,

“ She certainly was born there; but from a very early age was brought up in Europe, under the care of an aunt, a remarkably sensible woman, who, having been left early her own mistress, found independence so much more desirable than a matrimonial connection with any of those who offered, that she voluntarily became what is called an old maid; and taking her niece from school before her mind was vitiated by the rivalry too common among all girls, and too much encouraged by the common mode of education, she undertook to instruct her at home; but her plan for that purpose did not embrace numberless frivolous attempts at arts, which are nothing, if not obtained in perfection, but rather in useful acquirements, writing correctly her own language, understanding and speaking Italian and French, and forming her taste while the virtues of her heart were not forgotten. Mrs. Maynard, her aunt,

who piqued herself on strength of mind superior to her sex, endeavoured to communicate the same disdain of feminine weakness to her niece : but I think that my Henrietta has escaped the hardness of character which such attempts frequently produce ; and, perhaps being sensible a little too much of it in her aunt, has rather indulged the natural tendency of her mind to the opposite extreme.

Henrietta had never seen her father since her childhood : he was a man whose ideas had received all their colour from his situation. The only son of a very rich planter, he had never been in England since he left school at ten years old, and had conceived such an aversion from a place where he had been on the footing of equality with other boys, that he never desired to revisit Europe. From being a despot on his own estate, imagined he might exercise unbounded authority over every being that belonged

to him. But his sifter, as haughty in her way as he was in his, has always maintained her independence; and as she had a very considerable fortune at her own disposal, and was not likely to marry, he thought his daughter would be provided for by suffering her to continue with her aunt. He had a son by a second wife, on whom all his affection was placed, and for whom all his fortune was, he thought, too little. By a variety of other women of every various shade, from the quadroon to the negro of the Gold coast, he had many other children, who were brought up by their mothers on his estates; and who, though not actually slaves, were considered as attached to the soil. The boys as they grew up became overseers or accountants; and some of the girls were received into the house, where, as it had no regular mistress, (his second wife being long since dead,) they held a sort of middle place between the servants and the

the children of the house. Mr. James Denbigh, the young heir, had been recalled by his impatient father at about seventeen, and was some time unwillingly an inhabitant of Jamaica; but to be confined to any spot, or under even the questioning eye of his father, was what he could not resolve upon. He passed almost all his time with the officers of the English regiments at that time stationed at Jamaica, and engaged deeply in their amusements; where, in the midst of his thoughtless dissipation, he was attacked by the fever which has now for so many years been raging with fatal fury in America, and died before his father even knew that he was ill.

So fell at once all those splendid visions of continuing and aggrandizing his family, which had for years been the favourite contemplations of the elder Mr. Maynard. His temper, naturally violent and irascible, became after this disappointment so tyrannic and intolerable, that  
those

those most accustomed to endure his brutal caprices found it almost impossible to continue with him. Imagine then, my friend, what must have been the situation of my poor Henrietta in the scenes she was involved in. Her aunt, with whom she had travelled for two years through France and Italy, had been at home only seven or eight months, when she became frequently subject to a pulmonary complaint, which she neglected ; assuring Henrietta, who saw its progress with great uneasiness, that it would yield only to summer. It was, she said, useless to apply remedies which would be ineffectual ; and she projected, as soon as the spring arrived, a long tour northward, to end in a residence of six weeks in Wales, where she persuaded herself goat's milk and pure air would entirely restore her. During the winter she became evidently worse, yet still looked forward to spring as a period which would renew her existence. Spring indeed.

deed came, but coldly and reluctantly ; perpetual rain, or north-east winds, checked every effort of the approaching sun, and my poor Henrietta lost her aunt, her only friend and protectress : nor was she at all consoled by finding herself, at hardly twenty, mistress of a fortune of upwards of seventeen thousand pounds.

I had met with her and her aunt 'at Penzena's, when they were about to return to England ; where when I arrived some months after them, I had renewed my acquaintance. Henrietta made at first a very favourable impression on my mind : our fortunes, our condition of life, and our ages, all seemed to unite in making an union between us desirable for both parties ; but I had seen among my own friends two such striking examples of the unhappy consequences of early and hasty marriages, that I determined to see more of the fair Henrietta before I put my happiness in any degree in her power.

Wc



We parted therefore at that time without my having professed any warmer sentiment than friendship: and when our intercourse was renewed in town, her aunt was in such a state of health, that Henrietta would, I found, have been offended, had I then named to her a passion which was now become the liveliest sentiment of my heart. It was, however, impossible to conceal what I yet feared to explain; till one evening, when I called with my usual inquiry, and was admitted, I found Henrietta drowned in tears: sobs choked her utterance, and her bosom heaved with convulsive agonies; while with difficulty she repeated what the physician who attended her aunt had just told her, that he thought it impossible she could survive the week. Her grief was so affecting, her attendance on her dying relation had been so exemplary, that I loved her at that moment more passionately than ever; and I know not how, but I contrived to offer  
my

my protection as a husband, as the fondest and most adoring husband, when sorrow for the cruel event which I feared was inevitable, should permit her to look forward to the prospects of her future life. Henrietta was not ignorant of my attachment to her. Her aunt had perceived it with pleasure, and I now reproached myself for the needless reserve I had held. We soon came to a perfect understanding. Mrs. Maynard herself, trembling on the brink of the grave, joined our hands, and blessed us. She bade her beloved Henrietta look on me as her best friend, entrust me with the management of all her pecuniary concerns, and suffer no forms of mere custom to delay her giving me a right to be her friend and protector. Scarce had we performed the last offices to this respectable woman, when Henrietta received letters from her father's agent, informing her of the death of her brother, and his orders that she should immediately

mediately come over to Jamaica. To these were added two very short and peremptory letters from her father himself, one addressed to his sister now deceased, the other to his daughter, in both of which he expressed himself like a man who would be obeyed, without any attention to the feelings or inclinations of those whom he thought he had a right to command.

Henrietta put these unwelcome mandates into my hand, and told me she must prepare to obey them. I instantly perceived that my hopes of immediately calling her mine were considerably diminished by this unexpected change, and dreaded lest her father had views for her which might separate us for ever. I communicated my fears to Henrietta : they were founded on what I had heard of her father's character, of which she seemed more ignorant than I was; for Mrs. Maynard, however she contemned her brother, had always respected the  
duty

duty which her niece owed him, and had as much as she could concealed from her his vicious character. Henrietta therefore heard me with astonishment when I told her that I foresaw, if she returned to Jamaica, our union would be deferred, if not broken for ever. She contended, that her father could not be so unreasonable; that if, like the generality of fathers, fortune was his object, I was heir to, or already possessed, a property which was more than equal to hers; that in point of family and connections mine was infinitely superior; and that it appeared to her almost impossible for her father to make any objection.

That such was the flattering opinion of Henrietta was to me a misfortune; for it furnished her with arguments against what I ardently solicited—an immediate marriage. It was in vain I represented to her, that, firmly persuaded as she appeared to be of her father's concurrence,

currence, there would be no breach of duty in fulfilling the last wishes of her deceased friend, and marrying before she obeyed her father's summons. She combated all I could say with arguments which I soon found were not her own ; and I discovered with undescribable mortification, that she was dictated to by one of those officious people, who, having a very high opinion of their own wisdom, delight in directing the conduct of others, and are never so happy as when they can busy themselves in affairs of which for the most part they can have only an incomplete knowledge. Artful, insinuating, and specious, Mrs. Apthorp, who had been an intimate friend of her aunt's, now used her utmost endeavours to preserve the power which that title and her own art had given her over the mind of Henrietta. She had other views in doing so than merely to gratify her love of meddling and dictating ; and she succeeded but too well.

The

The nonage of Henrietta, and every other objection, was pleaded in support of the resolution which I found she had taken of returning to Jamaica, and soliciting her father's consent to our marriage. I then insisted upon accompanying her in the same vessel; but I found her equally prepared with reasons against that. Her cunning directors had foreseen that I should endeavour to obtain that proof of her regard, and had armed my poor Henrietta with so great a store of prudish, and as I thought unnecessary objections, that my patience was exhausted; and for the first time since our acquaintance, I remonstrated with some degree of asperity against this mistrust of my honour, and these doubts of my real affection. Henrietta answered only by her tears; but her resolution seemed unshaken: and vexed beyond all endurance at the influence which I found an artful woman had obtained over so good an understanding as

Henrietta

Henrietta possessed, I was rash enough to declare to her, that we must either go together, or part never to meet again. I left her in a temper of mind not easy to be described; but repenting, and even detesting myself for the pain I had inflicted, I flew back to apologize, and to implore for pardon. Henrietta, however, was already gone to pour her sorrows into the bosom of her friend, who knew so well how to inflame her naturally gentle temper, that, when I again sought her the next day, she was denied to me; and a few hours afterwards she was carried into Hampshire by her zealous and prudent monitors, whose ascendancy seemed to increase as mine I thought declined. It was not difficult for me to find whither Henrietta was gone; and I followed her: but determined never to enter a house of which Mrs. Apthorp was the mistress, I went to an inn in the village, and, by writing, at length engaged Henrietta to see me.

With-

Withdrawn from the immediate presence of her officious directress, (who had persuaded her that she stood in the place of her deceased aunt as a guide to her conduct,) Henrietta wept, and forgave me: but I could obtain my pardon on no other terms than those of relinquishing my resolution to take my passage in the same vessel. As the most impertinent affectation of prudery could not venture to object to my proceeding in another, I immediately went to Portsmouth, and engaged my passage in a sloop, the only vessel in which any tolerable accommodation was left for passengers; for the fleet was full of West Indians, going to visit or return to their property across the Atlantic.

I then acquainted Henrietta with what I had done, and hastened to London to settle some affairs which my father's death and that of your father had left upon my hands. I hurried them over, and flew back to Portsmouth, where I

was



was indeed permitted to attend my Henrietta into the ship which was to convey her from England: but imagine my surprise and vexation when I found that Mrs. Apthorp, whom I had so much reason to detest was to be her companion and protectress during the voyage! I expressed my astonishment the more forcibly, because the company of this lady had been one of the expedients I had proposed, when Henrietta objected to the impropriety of my accompanying her alone. I was then told, that notwithstanding the very great affection of Mrs. Apthorp for her dear adopted child, her own family, to whom her first duties were due, could not dispense with her presence in England. I now found her in great form, sharing the state-rooms, as they are called, appropriated to Henrietta, in a ship of which her father was principal owner, and directing every thing with the air of a person whose judgment and sagacity were to be generally

generally referred to. The captain, a rude blunt seaman, who had very soon seen more of her than he liked, perceived, what indeed I had not affected to hide, that this woman was utterly hateful to me; and calling me aside, he asked me if I did not see what she was at? "The devil fly away with her!" said he, "she's as cunning as his dam. Why, no wonder the gentlewoman wants to take Miss in tow—Her father is a widower—No bad look-out for the widow herself, who is not over-burdened with money. But more than that, there's a son in the case."—"A son?" cried I, imagining I at once saw the cause of Henrietta's coldness to me. "Yes," replied my informer; "but Miss has never seen him yet. You must know, that in this madam's jiggeting backwards and forwards, getting things to rights, I've laid my tackle to make out what she was; and I find she's mother to one Apthorp, a lawyer, who had a place under

Government in Antigua, and who is now removed to Jamaica to a better thing; I don't know your law terms, not I; but though I've seen this mother what d'ye call 'um but twice, I know she intends nothing more or less than to marry the father herself, and her son to his daughter." Numberless circumstances now occurred to me, to convince me that the old captain guessed the truth. Yet Henrietta was at once acquitted; for I knew she had never seen the son, or at least not since she was a child: my indignation, however, against the mercenary art of her pretended friend was such as I no longer attempted to disguise.

You must often, my dear friend, have seen and lamented the occasional weakness of the strongest minds, when either from habit or prejudice they put their understandings into the guidance of others, and are either too indolent or too timid to dare to think for themselves.

Henrietta

Henrietta had infinitely more natural sense than the woman by whom she suffered herself to be led; yet, being accustomed to the government of her aunt, and hearing perpetual changes rung upon the words prudence, propriety, discretion, and decorum, the opinion of the world, and the necessary submission of every body to its decisions, Henrietta had given up every opinion of her own, and even her affection for me seemed suspended by her apprehensions of censure. But my indignant impatience now broke through all forms; I openly declared my conviction that Mrs. Apthorp had designs against her fortune in favour of this son; and, I believe, gave hints of what would follow *his* avowing his pretensions—which threw the lady into very distressing confusion; while Henrietta, taking me to another part of the ship, endeavoured to soothe and appease me, by protesting that Mrs. Apthorp had never once

named this son in the way of recommending him to her ; that she was persuaded her views were very different, and that affection for her, disinterested affection, had more weight than any thing else in the resolution Mrs. Apthorp had taken to go to Jamaica. Though I was farther than ever from being convinced, I could not bear the tears of Henrietta, who implored me not to part with her in anger. " Though propriety forbids our going in the same ship," said she, " we shall yet be on our way together. I shall learn to distinguish that in which you are to embark. We may be often near each other ; nor, as I understand, is it impossible for you to come on board this vessel. Absent or present, I shall consider you as my future husband. As such I shall, I am sure, have courage to speak of you to my father, and a very few weeks will unite us to part from each other no more." Smiling through her tears, Henrietta endeavoured to prevail

1

vail

vail upon me to be as satisfied as she wished to appear with the flattering prospect she thus presented to me. But though I could not resolve to distress her by shewing how little all this pleased me, I left her “rather in sorrow than in anger,” vainly attempting to argue myself out of a persuasion, that, far from meeting happily as she had described, we should never meet again.

But, continued my friend, I have a sort of history of my poor Henrietta’s voyage, and subsequent adventures, written by herself, which I will put into your hands. She began it at my desire, while she was on shipboard, to fix in her mind the ideas of such objects as then occurred in a new mode of life. When, after the alarming situations she was afterwards thrown into, she began to recover health and recollection, she added the incidents as they affected her, and she has from time to time corrected the nar-

rative, as the cruel circumstances of those hours of terror returned to her mind.

But, before you read this, let me fill up the chasm there will otherwise be in the story, by telling you, that when we had been about a fortnight at sea, (during which we had such very bad weather that I never could go on board the *Argonaut*, a merchant ship in which was *Henrietta*,) one of the frigates which were our convoy made a signal for separation; and with the vessels under his care, whalers for the South Sea, and victuallers for St. Helena, he left us. We some days afterwards made the *Madeira*; where, going on shore at *Funchiale*, I once more saw my *Henrietta*, and once more implored her to change a resolution, which I had a strange prevention would be fatal to one of us. I saw that she too had her fears, and that the tedium and sickness which are usually felt in such a voyage had greatly

greatly enfeebled her spirits. Yet the change seemed not to be favourable to me. It rather served to put her more than ever into the power of Mrs. Apthorp; who hardly allowed me, during our short stay on shore, an opportunity of conversing alone with Henrietta even for five minutes. Yet I thought it evident that the restraint to which she thus submitted was uneasy to her, though she had not the courage to throw it off; and I will own, that, irritated beyond all patient endurance, I returned on board more than half resolved to break an engagement, however dear to my heart, which, if it were completed, would, I feared, unite me to a woman of a feeble mind, whose affection for me it would too probably be in the power of any artful busy meddler to weaken or estrange. Yet scarce had I suffered myself to dwell a moment on this idea, before that of Henrietta, lovely in the unsuspecting innocence of youth, such as I had first



seen her ; her simplicity, her beauty, her early talents, of which she was totally unconscious ; her mild temper and sensible heart, all assembled to dissolve it : and again I fondly flattered myself, that when we should meet in Jamaica, her sense of duty being satisfied, she would be restored to me such as she once was—and that even her errors, while they gave me pain, were the effect of virtue.

My eyes were incessantly in search of the ship in which she was. If for some hours I lost sight of it, my impatience to regain it made me importune the master, and bribe the sailors, who however were willing enough to gratify me. But though that in which I had taken my passage was a lighter vessel than the Argonaut, she was old and foul, scantily manned, and a very indifferent sailer, so that we were often very far from the convoy : and one morning, five days from our leaving Madeira, we found ourselves, after a stormy night, in which the  
dead-

dead-lights had been put up, absolutely alone; being but just able from the mast-head to discern the top-fails of our companions many leagues to the westward. It was in vain that the captain and crew appeared to exert themselves to fetch up the way they had lost. Even the distant view of the fails, with which I had for some time consoled myself, was now lost; a wide, wide horizon was before me, but the objects I sought were vanished into air. To add to my anxiety, it fell a dead calm, and our vessel lay like a log on the water. A storm would have been a thousand times more welcome, for then my mind would have been occupied. Now I felt as if I desired to disengage my soul from its earthly bondage, that I might flit through the air unobstructed, and watch over Henrietta, whom I had but a few days before thought of as one who could never constitute my felicity, and whom it

would be wise to endeavour to forget : so strange and capricious an animal is man!

I will not attempt to describe my impatience, or the torments in which I passed some hours. A favourable wind then sprang up, which bore us directly on our course; and though I had very little hope of overtaking the fleet, I now flattered myself that I should not be many days after Henrietta at Port Royal. I redoubled my entreaties to the men—as if they could do any thing more than they had already done. But, unfortunately for us all, they had soon another motive for exertion. On the fourth day after we had been thus deserted, there was a cry of “two sail to leeward!” I ran eagerly to know if they were any of our fleet. The captain assured me, that they were not, but, he apprehended, enemies; and in a very short time we were convinced that they were large French privateers. Our attempts to escape were vain, and resist-

réfistance would have been a mere waste of life. Inſtead therefore of landing in Jamaica a few hours or days after Henrietta, I found myſelf a priſoner, and was carried by my captors into Rochfort.

Imagine, my friend, what I ſuffered when I reflected on the diſtance that was now between us, and the time that muſt elapſe before I could rejoin Henrietta, at this moment dearer to me than ever. I figured to myſelf her anxiety for me, and the reproaches ſhe would make herſelf for having refuſed to admit me on board the ſame ſhip ; while on the other hand the triumph of Mrs. Apthorp, perhaps the ſucceſs of the plans which I could not doubt her having formed, tormented me inceſſantly. As money was the ſole object of my captors, and no advantage could be gained by my detention, I agreed with them for my releaſe ; and after having been about fix weeks a priſoner, I was ſuffered to de-

part. But I had a great part of France to cross before I could reach a port from whence cartels passed to England, and it was six weeks longer before I arrived in London. The necessity of repairing the losses I had sustained detained me only a few days. I hastened to Falmouth, to embark in a Government packet; but there I was kept near a month by winds so violent and contrary, that it was impossible to put to sea. Our passage was afterwards unusually tedious, so that I arrived not in Jamaica till almost six months after I lost sight of Henrietta. Her own narrative, which is addressed to me, shall tell you the rest. To you I make no scruple of confiding those simple effusions of tenderness with which it is intermixed:

---

On board the Argonaut, at Sea,  
quitting the Madeira Islands.

“ I HAVE lost sight of you, Denbigh ; and once more the land where we last met recedes, and we enter again on the wide world of waters. I obey you in committing to paper my sensations and my remarks, though the first are all melancholy, and the latter will perhaps be puerile. You were displeased with me, my friend ; I saw uneasiness and resentment beneath the forced kindness of your last adieu, and the recollection of that moment is embittered by it. Yet how often has it been inculcated, how often have you enforced the maxim, that when we feel we have done right we should be at peace with ourselves ! And surely, when you will allow yourself to reflect coolly on my situation, you will acknowledge that I have acted with propriety. Surely, Denbigh, this is the only subject on which we could differ. May we never differ again !—Oh ! if you knew how anxiously I look out for the vessel which  
bears

bears you, and which I am even in search of with a glass, and know from the observations you taught me to make, you would not think that the refusal you complain of arose from indifference.

“ Ah! had not prudence, and deference for the customs and opinions of the world, determined that it must be otherwise, to say nothing of the absolute necessity of my not appearing to act in so important a matter decidedly without the concurrence of my father, how happy would it have made me to have had your conversation to animate the tediousness of the voyage! and how doubly delightful would every appearance of nature be, which I could remark with you, or which you would point out to me!

“ Last night, after we weighed anchor, and were leaving the Bay of Fonchiale, I sat upon deck with my female companions. They were talking of I know not what parties and people with whom they are acquainted, and by their vivacity seemed, from the recollection  
of

of what had passed in these societies, to receive great pleasure ; but did their conversation convey any to me ? Alas ! no. On the contrary, I withdrew from them as far as I could ; and, as it became dark, I watched the lights of the different ships. But I could not distinguish yours—when all were colourless upon the water, and none particularly marked but the convoying frigate. Yet I loved to imagine that you were engaged, as I was, in observing the beauty of the moon and stars, brighter and differently coloured, surely, than they appear in England. I loved to fancy that you were admiring, as I was, the long stream of ineffable brilliance, with which the moon illuminated the slowly undulating waves—while I saw successively several ships cross this radiant line, their sails catching the moonbeams for awhile, and then gradually and majestically falling into shadow. I had never observed the night sea so beautiful ; and again how earnestly did I wish you with me, and how sad sunk my heart



heart when I thought of the half-stifled coldness with which you said "Farewell, Henrietta!" as you descended the ship's side into the boat which was to take you to your own! "Farewell, Henrietta!" Ah, Denbigh! it was the tone with which you spoke that has so affected me. Indeed my dear friend! it was unkind. Yet you did not intend, perhaps, to give me pain. Oh! no, you could not intend it; nor could you guess that I should pass a wretched restless night, repeating continually to myself "Farewell, Henrietta!"

It was utterly impossible for me to sleep. The heat, added to the anxiety of my mind, compelled me to quit my uneasy bed. I went out into the gallery, and beheld a spectacle so glorious, as might, to a well-regulated mind, suspend all the petty cares of this world. The sun arose in all his undescrivable glory. A thousand transient hues, such as I had never remarked before, wavered on the sea, now glowing with rose colour fading into

into pale orange ; then amber, blue, and purple, like the fleeting shades of the most brilliant opal, varied the softly swelling waves, till towards the west they became of a deep green, the sky above yet tinged with dark clouds that hang on " the rear of night."

I perceived, in proportion as the sun became higher, that clearness of the atmosphere which I remembered you had told me was to be seen in these high latitudes ; I saw too in greater numbers, what I had before observed, the flying fish, pursued by the dolphins or other fish of prey, emerging from the waves on their wing-like fins, and flickering along the surface of the water ; from whence they were sometimes driven by the appearance of a sea-bird, from whose attack they sheltered themselves again in their native element. Their silver scales and tremulous cobweb wings glancing with a singular kind of short flight over the blue waves, and  
the

the rapidity with which their aërial enemies darted upon them, while I saw every where the many-coloured dolphins throwing themselves half out of the water in the eagerness of their pursuit, interested me for some time, or rather gave me cause for reflection. I tried to remember where I had read a comparison between some unfortunate persecuted characters in human life, and those poor harassed inhabitants of the sea, who seem to have gained but little by their faculty of flying. As the land receded, however, the birds were less frequent. The heat soon became intense; and I received some remonstrances from my careful companion on the impropriety of exposing myself to the sun, and the reflection of the sea. Yet, believe me, Denbigh, I would not retire for the morning, till I had, with the assistance of poor Juana \*, who is more an adept than I am, descried the Emily; though surely she does not fail

\* A black female servant.

so well as most others of the fleet, for she is always pointed out to me farther off than almost any of them.

“ Well, my good friend, have I not begun to obey you? Alas ' in the monotonous life we lead on board ship, how little is there to write about. After a day sufficiently calm, yet with wind enough to bear us on our course, we have nothing to do but ' to wish that the following day may be equally favourable. Oh! how weary am I already of the sea!—Yet do I long to be on shore? I can hardly answer in the affirmative, though I go to the arms of a parent.

“ I fear that so long an absence as mine, for it is eleven years since I was sent from the paternal roof, may have estranged my father from me. Certainly he never expressed the least wish to see me till after the death of my brother. I have wept at the coldness which I thought was visible in the few letters he wrote either to me or my aunt. I feel  
such

such an awe of him, that I tremble when I think of the first interview; and sometimes, to appease the dread which perpetually affails me, I endeavour to form some idea of the manner, the person, and the character of my father, and for that purpose to engage Captain More to describe him to me; but I observe that all he says is constrained, and he seems to answer not as he thinks, but as it is necessary for him to do to the daughter of a man who has it in his power so materially to befriend him. He speaks of the luxury of the table at my father's house; of the number of slaves kept solely for domestic purposes; of the quantity of wine consumed at his table, and of his consequence in the island. But why do I hear nothing of his benevolence; of his private friends; of his kindness to his people, and of his being beloved as well as feared? Ah! if he should be harsh to me—if he should not love me—if he should have other  
views

views for me——But wherefore should I thus torment myself? Mrs. Sibthorp very justly, though very severely, reproves me for it. She says, I am too apt to anticipate evil; and that, after all, a young woman should have no will of her own. But you love her, Denbigh, so little already, that I will not make you love her less by repeating axioms to which I know you will not agree; though indeed she is a very excellent woman, and one whom you would have liked in any other character than that of my adviser. Ah! Denbigh, does it never occur to you, that when I put myself thus under the guidance of another, it is a proof that I am conscious of my own weakness, and of an inability to govern myself.”

“I again begin to write, though I have nothing, alas! to say but a wretched repetition of what I have so often written already—yet with one aggravating circumstance—I have looked in vain  
these

these last three days for the Emily. I have employed Juana to look, and to engage two of the sea-boys in the same inquiry; but they have every day repeated that they do not see her. I never felt till now the misery of suspense. The wind is fair, and carries on the ship with a rapidity which will bring us they say into port in three weeks, if it continues. Would it were over, since it must be, this meeting so dreaded at once and desired! But if I were sure, Denbigh, that the Emily will arrive at the same time, I should, methinks, look forward to that period with more confidence than I now do. Alas! my friend, another day is passed, and still Juana answers my inquiries with "No, Missy, not see him yet."

"These last days have been passed in a most comfortless way. One of the children of Mrs. Willis, a fellow-passenger, has been ill; and the poor mother, half  
distracted,

distracted, has found some relief in my sharing with her the fatigue of attending on the poor little patient, who is now, I trust, out of danger. But how greatly are the anxieties of their friends, and the sufferings of the sick increased by being on ship-board ! Mrs. Willis, as nobody in this vessel pretends to act in the capacity of doctor or surgeon, attempted to procure assistance from the ship of war ; but the captain made so many difficulties, and appeared so little sensible of the painful solitudes of a parent, that three days were wasted, and at last the surgeon came on board. He is intelligent and obliging ; and it was at least a satisfaction to Mrs. Willis to find that all she has done is right, and that the little girl is out of danger. Yet to me this visit has been productive of new alarm. I ventured tremblingly to inquire whether any of the ship or the convoy were missing, and had the inconceivable mortification of hearing,

that



that there was one, if not two, which had not been seen for many days. I then hazarded another question: ‘Do you know, Sir, the names of these ships?’ I believe the young man discovered from my manner the particular interest I took in his answer; for he smiled, and assured me, he was very sorry that he was unable to answer my question, but that he was wholly unacquainted with the names of any of the ships; nor should he probably have known that any of the number were missing, had he not heard captain Ramsay exclaiming vehemently against the commanders of the merchantmen, who he declared were often in league with the enemy, and left the convoy on purpose to be taken.

“Alas, my dear Denbigh! this has not served to elevate my spirits. Should the man who commands your ship be one of this description! . . . I sometimes reproach myself for our separation, and am weak enough to yield to those strange  
fore-

forebodings of evil, which for want of a more appropriate word we call presen-  
timents. If we are separated to meet no  
more!—Oh! no. I dare not trust myself  
with an idea so utterly insupportable.”



“I have been many days incapable of  
writing. The Emily is certainly not  
with the convoy, and for what purpose  
should I commit my thoughts to paper,  
since he whom alone they are likely to  
interest will not see them? A thousand  
conjectures torment me. I put Mrs.  
Apthorp out of humour by my ques-  
tions, and weary every body else, who  
‘answer neglectingly they know not what.’  
And why, indeed, should I expect that  
my solicitude will interest them?—Alas!  
Denbigh, I begin to feel all the wretch-  
edness of being an insulated being, even  
for this little space. Mrs. Apthorp  
loves me—I am sure she does; but she  
cannot comprehend my feelings, and  
seems to disapprove of my indulging

them. I endeavour therefore to conceal them. The island of Jamaica is now visible from the mast-head. To-morrow evening they say we shall cast anchor. — To-morrow evening! — And you, Denbigh, will not be there to support me. Yet do I not go to a father? — have I not a friend with me, whose affection for me is almost maternal? If I were satisfied of your safety, I would endeavour to tranquillize my spirits, and to meet my father as I ought to do; — but this cruel uncertainty is insupportable.”



“The poor Henrietta is at last at what she must call her home; and in pursuance of her promise will endeavour to relate her sensations and describe her situation. But while I attempt it my spirits sink; for who knows if ever you will read what I write? You, who do not appear, of whom nothing is known, and of whom I dare not now venture to inquire! — But they told me before

before I left Kingston, that it was probable the ship in which you were, together with another missing ship, was taken by the enemy. My friend, I have always been told, that the consciousness of having acted right would in every event of life bestow a certain degree of happiness and tranquillity. I thought I had acted right when I resisted your wish of accompanying me in the same vessel. Yet I am unhappy, indeed I am very unhappy; and I have not now one friend to whom I can venture to say so, or from whom I can receive the pity and consolation I so greatly need.

“ My father did not meet me at the port as I expected; he sent one of his manager or agents to receive and conduct me to this place. Overcome with all the disagreeable circumstances of our landing, almost fainting with heat, anxiety, and fatigue, I was not sorry that a meeting to me so awful was postponed. Yet it appeared unkind; and I felt that I

never wanted more the presence of a friend. Mrs. Apthorp prepared to accompany me, as she had always promised; and as her son, who was the principal object of her voyage, was not yet arrived, I had no hesitation in accepting this farther proof of her friendship: but Mr. Grabb the manager, who was to be my escort, having learned what was her intention, very gravely approached us as we were nearly ready to set out, and told me, without much circumlocution or apology, that he had his employer's directions not to suffer any person whatsoever to go with me. I was grieved and astonished at such an order, and represented to the man, that my father could never mean to exclude a female friend so respectable as Mrs. Apthorp, who had so kindly protected me during the voyage. Mr. Grabb replied, that he had nothing to say to all that, but his orders were so positive, that he dared not and would not disobey them. Mrs.

Apthorp,

Apthorp, extremely mortified, then desisted, and prepared to depart for the house of a relation, where she now said she intended to stay till her son came; who, from something she unguardedly dropped, was, I found, wholly unacquainted with her arrival, and was first to learn it from letters she was now to write to him. Our separation was immediate, and melancholy enough to me. I got into the post-chaise which my father had sent for me, attended by Juana, who, however pleased to revisit her native land, thought I could perceive with sentiments very far from pleasure of her former master. Escorted by so strange a looking man as Mr. Grabb, who rode very magisterially by the side of the chaise, as if to guard me, my poor heart became heavier than ever, and I anticipated with increased terror the meeting which I ought to have considered with pleasure.

“ The journey was tedious, and the

heat almost intolerable. This distance is about thirty miles, and though my father's horses were excellent, and his whole equipage well appointed, the road was rugged, and the heat extreme, so that it was the evening of the second day before we arrived at Horton's, an house my father built about eleven years ago, on one of his largest estates near the sea. In despite of the agitation of my spirits, I could not help admiring the beauty of the country I had passed through; and the house to which I now, at night-fall, approached was better than any I had seen on the way. A great number of slaves crowded round the carriage when it stopped. Some seemed eagerly watching an opportunity of being noticed by their young lady, others greeted their old friend or relation Juana. I was shocked at the harshness with which the man who attended me drove them away; and his

coun-

countenance, as he helped me from the carriage, expressed so disagreeable a mixture of arrogance and submission, that I involuntarily recoiled from him, and felt a sort of relief in seeing Amponah, my father's black servant, who attended my brother to England, and was almost a twelvemonth in my aunt's family. He now seemed rather an old acquaintance whom I was rejoiced to see, than an abject slave, such as by the manager's behaviour towards him he appeared to be considered; and I followed him, trembling, when he led the way to my father's apartment.

"I was soon in the presence of this parent, from whom I have been so long estranged; but I became so ill from the variety of emotions assailing me, that I merely saw him, endeavoured to kneel to him and kiss his hand, and then sank down insensible before him and some other persons (I knew not then



who they were) that were about him. When I recovered my recollection, which was in a few moments, I saw strange female faces of many shades around me. My father was not there, and the dreaded interview was to be again attempted. It is so difficult, my friend, in some cases, for a child to speak of a parent consistently at once with truth and duty, that I must be allowed to be entirely silent in regard to my father; unless I should be compelled to speak of him, in consequence of the power he possesses over me, and on the manner of his using which, it depends, whether I shall be happy, or the most miserable of human beings.

“ Oh, Denbigh! that you were here, that this fearful point might be brought to an issue! But you are afar off. You cannot even advise. “ Farewell, Henrietta!” were the last words I ever heard you utter—The tone in which they were  
uttered

uttered vibrates on my ear ; I repeat it to myself ; it appears like an eternal adieu !

“ I have had nothing to add to my narrative for some days, at least nothing that I like to write on, or that you would like to read ; and for the persons who surround me, I would I could escape ever naming them ! Do you know, Denbigh, that there are three young women here, living in the house, *of colour*, as they are called, who are, I understand, my sisters by the half blood ! They are the daughters of my father by his black and mulatto slaves ; and the awkwardness I felt when I was first under the necessity of addressing myself to them, seemed very wonderful to the people here, who see nothing extraordinary or uncommon in such an arrangement as my father has made in his family. They speak an odd sort of dialect, more resembling that of the negroes than the English spoken in England ; and their odd manners, their

love of finery, and curiosity about my clothes and ornaments, together with their total insensibility to their own situation, is, I own, very distressing to me. The youngest of them, who is a quadroon—a mestize—I know not what—is nearly as fair as I am; but she has the small eye, the prominent brow, and something particular in the form of the cheek, which is, I have understood, usual with the creoles even who have not any of the negro blood in their veins. As I am a native of this island, perhaps I have the same cast of countenance without being conscious of it, and I will be woman enough to acknowledge that the supposition is not flattering.

“ This little girl, however, (for she is but twelve years old) I have attempted to instruct, when I could enough command my spirits to attend to any thing: but she is so ignorant, so much the creature rather of origin or of habit, that I can-

not make her comprehend the simplest instruction, and our lesson generally ends in her begging of me some ribbon, feather, or other trifling ornament, which I give her on her promising to attend more another time:—a promise which she never remembers. Alas! Denbigh, my days pass most unpleasantly here: besides the continual uneasiness which I suffer from the uncertainty I am in about you, which would nowhere allow me a moment's repose, I am most comfortless in having no one to whom I can speak unreservedly, no one who understands me. My father is often absent. Why am I compelled to say, that his absence relieves me from a part of my sufferings?—He is engaged, deeply engaged, in quelling those unhappy people whom they call Maroons, who have done him, I understand, considerable injury, and have now among them many of his runaway negroes; against whom, if they are taken, he meditates,

ditates, I find, modes of revenge, which are really so horrible only to hear mentioned, that I am often under the necessity of leaving the room. Yet dare I not express the terror and disgust with which such inhumanity fills my mind; for, whatever I say, whatever I do, is related to my father, who reproves me with so much harshness, that I cannot help sinking before him into tears and despondence, such as guilt alone ought to subject me to. But from mere unwillingness to name it, I delay to tell you—(tell you? Alas! will you ever read this?)—the heaviest and most menacing of all the evils which either surround or threaten me. We deceived ourselves, my dear friend! while we hoped and believed that my father could have no objection to you; when we took it for granted, because reason seemed to authorize our doing so, that there could be no obstacle to our union. There is an obstacle my trembling  
hand

hand refuses to write, an unconquerable impediment, of which we dreamed not :—My father's strange resolution to *raise* a dependent to the rank of his son-in-law ; to make the fortune of a man in humble life wholly dependent on, and owing every thing to him. Such a man, willing to be wholly his creature, and to owe his fortune to him, had my father found when he so peremptorily directed my ill-fated voyage. And hence it was, that, having had some intelligence, I know not from what quarter, of the attachment you honoured me with, as well as of Mrs. Apthorp's designs in favour of her son, he sent orders that no one should be suffered to accompany me hither.

“ For many days, however, after my arrival, I was kept ignorant of this. But the person for whose slave my father designs me was introduced to me as a friend of his, for whom he had a particular esteem. I hardly looked at  
the

the man. Naturally careless and indolent, you have often told me I am too indifferent about the people I meet with in the common intercourse of life, and make no remarks on character. I own I see so little worth remarking, and people seem to me to be so little distinguished one from the other in this money-getting country, that, were I to see half the land-holders of the island assembled, I should probably be unable to remark in one of them any discriminating feature. I therefore saw this man, whose name is Sawkins, without noticing him when he was present, and, the moment he was absent, forgot I had ever seen him at all.

“ Not only so, but when two or three days afterwards he came again, and smiled and smirked, and looked I thought marvelously impertinent, his name had so entirely escaped me, that, when I left the room in disgust, I inquired of Amponah, one of the few ser-

vants

vants in the house to whom I can speak, who that person was. The poor fellow appeared to be surprised at my question, and answered, 'Master not tell you, Mifs?' I said I should not have inquired, but that I had forgotten his name. 'Ah, Mifs, Mifs!' replied Amponah, 'dat man is one day n'other to be our master.'—'Your master, Amponah?'—'Yes: master give him you, Mifs, and all this great rich estates, and pens and all.'

'This was the first intimation I had ever received of my father's intention, and it seemed now to be so utterly improbable, that I fancied Amponah must be mistaken. I smiled therefore as I told him so. The poor fellow sighed deeply, and, shaking his head, replied, 'What I say is trute; that man is him master means to make marry you, Mifs.'—'But, Amponah, what is he?'—'What is he, Mifs? Oh! he nephew to a widow lady master like, and go see some—'



sometime t'other side de Island. Ah, Mifs! we know well enough who he is; he is poor man, bad man, cruel man; but *we* must not speak. Yet,' added Amponah, in a tone and manner altogether unlike his usual way of speaking, 'yet, for *such* man to be *your* husband, Mifs!'—I was, I hardly know why, terrified at the honest indignation of this faithful servant. There must, surely, be something singularly obnoxious in the character of this man, that the very idea of his becoming the master of these people could thus move one of them. I was unwilling, however, to continue the conversation, but went to my own apartment, my heart more agitated than it has ever yet been, my whole frame trembling, and my thoughts confusedly recurring to what I had heard. I seemed unable to breathe, and was compelled to lie down for half an hour to recover and argue myself into a state of more rational composure.

“ I was

“ I was willing to flatter myself that Amponah was mistaken. ‘ What motive can there be?’ said I, ‘ what end can my father propose in marrying me to a person who seems, if he is not rich, to possess no one recommendation? It is, I must believe, it is impossible !’

“ So I argued, and by such means I endeavoured to quiet the cruel alarm that Amponah’s information had given me. But the longer I reflected, the more probable it seemed, because I recollected many circumstances which had escaped me in my father’s conversation and manner. As there are various species of pride, there are various ways of indulging it. Some men are delighted by allying themselves to rank or to riches. My father’s pride has, it seems, taken a contrary direction, and is to be gratified only by raising an inferior to affluence and consideration, who shall be wholly the creature of his power, and owe every thing to his favour. How  
he

he may to this end sacrifice his daughter, and ruin her peace for ever, appears to be no part of his consideration. Always accustomed to command, and to look on those about him rather as machines who were to move only at his nod, than as beings who had wills and inclinations of their own, a man of equal or even of affluent or independent fortune would not on these terms become a part of his family. His choice therefore is necessarily directed to such an animal as this dependent ; for Mr. Sawkins is, I understand, the nephew of a low woman, who came from England some years ago as housekeeper to a planter, and, being rather well-looking at that time, became so great a favourite with her master, that at his death he left her a large *pen* near Kingston, and a considerable sum of money, with which she has since purchased a plantation and slaves, of which her nephew is the manager. And it is to such an alliance,

Denbigh,

Denbigh, that my father sacrifices his daughter. I-talk, however, as if this detested alliance would ever take place. It never shall ; never, though I perish in attempting to avoid it. . . . .

“ Another week is passed, and my father’s intentions have been formally announced to me ; I might rather have said, peremptorily declared. ‘ *Tel est notre plaisir,*’ was never uttered from the most despotic throne with more inflexible harshness. I was forbidden all reply ; and ordered not to remonstrate, but to prepare to obey. I was told that Mr. Sawkins was then in the house, and that I must receive him as the man chosen for me by him who knew how to make himself obeyed. ‘ I know,’ said my father, ‘ I know that you have presumed to have other views for yourself. I know that artful people, calling themselves your friends, have had their views also on *my* fortune. To put an end at once and for ever to all such

such projects, it is my intention to have your marriage with the person I have elected for you concluded within a month.' He perceived that I had collected courage to speak, and stopped me, by abruptly saying, in an angry tone, 'Look'ye, Henrietta, I never suffer contradiction. Your arguments will be vain; your opposition fatal to yourself. I expect to hear, in the course of the day, that you have acquitted yourself in regard to your behaviour to my friend, as common sense and duty, or, if those have no influence, as my positive *command* directs." So saying, my father left the room; and Mr. Sawkins, with a cringeing bow, made his appearance. I had hardly a moment's time to recover my recollection, and to repeat. Yes, Denbigh, in that moment, I solemnly repeated a vow to Heaven, that never should my hand be given in marriage but to you. Having thus called upon all that is held sacred to

witness

witness my unalterable resolution, I felt my courage renewed, and turned to meet the unwelcome candidate for my father's estate, who seemed to be very little at his ease. The base spirit of a parasite was visible on his countenance, yet still there lurked under it a sort of malignant expression, which, while I positively, and I own with very little attention to politeness, rejected his suit, acquired insensibly the ascendant, and I shuddered while I remarked it. I cannot, Denbigh, repeat the particulars of our conversation; which I shortened as much as possible, and left him with a declaration couched in the strongest terms I could find, that my father might take away my life, but never should compel me to plight at the altar my faith to a man of whom I knew little, and towards whom that little had only served to excite my dislike, nay, even my contempt. I then left the room, and hastened to my own, where I locked myself in;

in; breathless and half dead, trembling at the resolution I had executed, yet feeling the immediate and dreadful necessity there would be for farther exertion. Oh, Denbigh! how did your unhappy Henrietta now regret the want of a mother, to whose affectionate bosom she might have flown for protection and consolation! With what anguish did she dwell on those days for ever gone, when this loss was supplied by the best of women and of friends; and when she was bade to consider you as the guardian of her youth, and the friend of her future life! Terrible was the contrast as she now looked around her: a father possessing unlimited power, and surrounded by slaves; in a remote house, of an island, many parts of which are liable to the attacks of savages driven to desperation, and thirsting for the blood of any who resembled even in colour their hereditary oppressors:—so that, to escape from the evil I dreaded by  
 flight,

flight, which had at first struck me as possible, now seemed to be only exchanging one mode of hideous and intolerable sufferings for another.

“Such was, Denbigh—alas! such is the situation of your unhappy friend. It is vainly, very vainly, I have attempted to collect that fortitude which you so often, as if you had foreseen how much I was to need it, have tried to teach me; and with which in the first misfortune I had ever known, you never ceased trying to arm me. You then, I remember, used to lead me into the air, to turn my mind to the contemplation of the beauties of nature, and to point out to me a thousand proofs of the benignity of that Being in whose hands I was; and who would not, you told me, afflict me beyond my strength. I wept, and my tears were not tears of despair. They relieved my bursting bosom, and I breathed more at liberty. Now, I try the same means to obtain only the  
power



power of weeping. I go out into the open corridor, and gaze on the magnificence of heaven, spangled as it is with myriads of stars, brighter than I ever saw in Europe. The palmetos and mountain cabbage, of which there is a high wood adjoining to the house, bend their graceful heads, and wave their feathery leaves in the soft land wind which blows here at night. All is still and calm; even the slaves who have toiled through the day, now rest in tranquillity; but I am wretched, my eyes are turned towards heaven, filled with burning tears of hopeless anguish. It seems hardly in the power of Heaven itself to help me. And you, Denbigh!——It is now, I understand, certain that the ship you were in was taken by a French privateer. My father, my cruel father! who has acquired more information than I ever gave him, or was ever asked to give, told me so yesterday with an ill-natured smile, adding, that he understood

flood you were sufficiently an adept in Jacobin principles, not to make a voyage to France any calamity to you : ‘ and,’ continued he, “ as to the inhabitants of this island, they can well dispense with the presence of such a wrong-headed young man, who sets up, they tell me, for a reformer. We have more than enough of fellows of that description among us already. I heartily hope Mr. Denbigh will stay at Paris.’

“ You have often told me—Ah ! how continually do I recur to those dear lessons, of which, when they were given, I surely knew not the value!--You have often told me, that a woman should acquire fixed principles, and upon them act with decision ; and that there is nothing else that can prevent that wavering imbecility which makes us the sport of every accident, and often ridiculous as well as wretched. I tried to do so—I acted on those principles of duty towards my father, and of reverence for

the opinion of the world, which every body around me had taught me; and, contrary, oh! how contrary to my own wishes! refused to accede to your proposal of accompanying me in the same ship. The consequences are to me so dreadful, that I know not how I shall ever venture to decide again that I am acting right. Perhaps, disgusted by my want of confidence, by my prudish mistrust in you, and trust in another, you have determined, Denbigh, to forget me. Needless indeed is this aggravation of my miseries; for, even if you have not thrown off the unfortunate Henrietta, an over-ruling and unconquerable destiny seems to have determined that we shall meet no more! Death, my dear friend, will end my distresses; for I feel it to be impossible that I should live to be the wife—(how can I write the words?)—of Mr. Sawkins! You are good and generous; you will not pity me the less for having brought

brought all this upon myself. I remember often to have heard, when a circle of *friends* were talking over the misfortunes of some poor sufferer, those who affected compassion answered by others of a less gentle disposition, with ‘How can one pity a person who has brought their misfortune on themselves?’. Ah! surely, where self-reproach is added to misery, it embitters every pang. Yet I acted from prudence, from principle, from an unwillingness, at my time of life, to set at defiance the opinion of the world, which I was assured must be absolutely against my leaving England accompanied by you. I recollect too, Denbigh, your frequently ridiculing those who have what you justly called the myopia of the mind, who seeing only immediate and minute objects, suffer such as are really of importance to escape them. I feel that I have been a myops in the present instance; and fearing the unreasonable censure of half a

dozen old women, who would perhaps have forgotten me as soon as I should them, I have incurred the heaviest calamity that could possibly overtake me."



"Gracious God! what will become of me! I have just heard that I am to be removed to another estate my father possesses in the northern part of the island. It is now the very midst of the autumnal rains; and such rain, such cataracts rather, and torrents of water, that no one thinks of travelling till it is over; but, from the information I have received, I doubt whether I shall be allowed to remain here even till these periodical tornados cease. My father, I am assured by the faithful Amponah, the only servant in whom I have any confidence, is determined to proceed without farther consulting me; and lawyers have been some days in the house drawing up the bill of sale, for what else can I call it? He has been

used to purchase slaves, and feels no repugnance in selling his daughter to the most dreadful of all slavery! The more I reflect on th destiny he proposes for me, the more impossible I find it to reduce my mind to submission. No, Denbigh, I can die—but to live the wife of a man I despise and abhor, I feel not to be in my power. Would I could believe that an alteration in my appearance would change the intentions of the purchaser whom my father has chosen! for then I should rejoice at these pallid looks, and this emaciated form; which now I only consider as symptoms of decline, that though not rapid enough to save me from the tyranny so immediately meditated, will yet perhaps so enervate me as to prevent my escape; for to escape I will attempt if I am able, though every distress that human nature shrinks from most should be inevitable.

“ I have been compelled to submit to three or four interviews with Mr. Sawkins. I cannot dwell upon them ; they serve only to increase my horror and detestation. I must take some resolution. What can I do ? I address myself in vain to Heaven ; Heaven is deaf to my prayers. I call upon you, my best, my only friend ! You are afar off ; you cannot hear me.

“ This last night, which has impressed every one else with terror, has to me given a few hours during which a gloomy hope suspended the bitterness of my despair. After a most oppressively hot day, the sun sunk in blood-coloured light, and huge clouds of a dark leaden hue, spotted with reddish purple, collected in the horizon. A sort of tremulous shivering ran among the leaves which no wind agitated, and the echo of the waves of the sea was heard like the regular firing of distant artillery. The negroes apprehended an earthquake, and  
their

their fears were presently communicated to the women, who form what I must I believe call my father's seraglio in this house. The vulgar of all nations seem to have a particular pleasure in exaggerating danger, and frightening each other; and these ladies of every shade appeared to be trying who should most express apprehension. The little girl who had interested me more than the rest threw herself into my arms, and wept bitterly; for she had heard a great deal about hurricanes, and was persuaded her last hour was come. I endeavoured to re-assure her, and prevail upon her to go to her mother; for I thought there might be some place more safe than the rest, which these people might know, and wish to take shelter in; and I desired to be alone, determined to take no precaution for my own safety; and as the storm now came on with a fury of which I had before no idea, I felt a gloomy satisfaction in the hope that my



cruel solicitude might be ended for ever. The peals of thunder burbling, as it seemed, immediately over the house, and shaking it to its very centre, mingled with the roaring of the wind, the crash of trees which were swept away before it, the howling of the negroes, and the cries of the women, who, as the tempest raved with renewed violence, uttered shrieks and yells more terrific than can be imagined; the vivid flashes of lightning, which seemed to penetrate every part of the building, and ran in blue rays along the floor; the flames of some of the negro houses, of which the palm thatch had been fired by the lightning; and, above all, a hollow and undecipherable subterraneous noise, muttering so as to be heard notwithstanding the warring elements without, all combined to make me believe some fatal accident must happen: I say believe; because I did *not* apprehend it. Maria, the little girl, perceiving she could not persuade me

me

me to fear, or to quit the part of the house where I was, and which was thought, I know not why, to be the least safe, had gone to her mother, and I was quite alone in the apartments I usually inhabit. No candle would remain burning, and I was involved in darkness; save only when the sudden glare of the lightning momentarily illuminated every object. Yet so much greater is my dread of living in the power of a man I abhor, than of dying by the act of that God on whom innocence may rely, that I felt myself ready to exclaim with Zanga, "I like this rocking of the battlements;" and I do not know that I have for many weeks felt less wretched. In about an hour and a half the hurricane seemed to have been re-incited instead of exhausted, till all at once there was a pause; a silence more terrific while it lasted than the fiercest rage of the storm. I thought I remembered to have heard, that such a dismal stillness preceded an

earthquake, and I almost believed that I felt the ground opening beneath my feet. I listened, breathless; and then fear for the first time during this dreadful night took possession of me. I was without light; but I fancied I heard somebody breathe short and quick close to me. I spoke. 'Is it you, Maria?' said I, imagining it might be the little girl. I had no answer; yet the person, whoever it was, seemed to be nearer to me, and to draw breath with still greater difficulty. I rose, and put my hands forward. They encountered a human creature, who trembled excessively as he seized one of them. I struggled to disengage my hand, and in a voice expressive of terror, insisted on knowing who it was that held me. 'Be not frightened, dear lady, it is me.' I knew with astonishment the voice of Amponah.

"The great distance which is in this country kept inviolable between the black people and their master's family,  
and

and the degraded light in which they are considered, made me shudder and recoil from a liberty even the occasion did not seem to warrant. Amponah, who trembled so much that he could hardly speak, said, he was too much afraid of what might happen to be able to leave me alone, and he came to conjure me to go where the rest of the family were assembled, in the most secure part of the house. This, however, I positively refused, unless it was my father's orders. My father, he told me, had gone away the day before with Mr. Sawkins to St. Jago de la Vega. This accounted for my not having seen him during the danger, at which I had before been surprised. Not to prolong a conference with Amponah, who told me the tempest would begin again more violently than ever, I ordered him to go for lights, and assured him I had no apprehension, and desired no one to have fears for me. He obeyed me, though it

seemed to be with reluctance ; but, before he could return, the raging elements had renewed their conflict, and I thought it even worse than before. I again ordered Amponah to leave me. He would have remonstrated, and really seemed, poor fellow ! to be quite bewildered and lost through the extreme fear that possessed him ; and as he put the candles down on a low table near me, there was an expression so wild and fearful on his dark countenance, that I felt it alarm me even more than the whirlwind and thunder that were roaring without. I could not help imagining, from his manner, that he knew of some danger awaiting me, greater than that I shared in common with others, of suffering from the tempest.

“ He left me, however, in silence ; for I was afraid to question him. I shut my doors as securely as possible ; having first satisfied myself, that no other of the black people had crept into the rooms,  
from

from the same motives as had influenced poor Amponah ; and I listened, I think, with more indifference than before to ‘ the pelting of the pitiless storm.’ It ceased not, however, till after day-break ; and then the female negroes and mulattoes, who belonged to me, crowded into my room, each with some story more terrible than the preceding, of what she had feared or suffered. The devastation on the trees, the cane grounds, and garden, was indeed visible enough. One poor negro had been killed by the fall of a beam in one of the boiling-houses, which had been unroofed and half carried away ; others had been bruised and wounded, and the manager was busy in repairing the mischief till a late hour ; while I exerted myself all I could to assist the nurses who attended the women, some of whom had just lain in, and had been exposed with their infants to the rage of the hurricane, by having the roofs or other

parts

parts of their little cabins carried away by the wind.

“ Nothing so much blunts the sense of misery as the activity of humanity. I returned from my visits to these poor and apparently grateful people, at once so satisfied and so much fatigued, that I slept many hours, and forgot for awhile all I have to apprehend for myself.”



“ Alas! Denbigh, the tranquillity with the boast of which I finished my last sentence, was of no long duration. This morning the order arrived from my father, that I should immediately remove, with the attendants he named, to the estate on the northern part of the island; which is, I am assured, a much more lonely situation than this. It is almost among the mountains, and no other cultivated land is within many miles. Surely, I can nowhere be more completely in his power than here. I have discovered this moment the reason of his removing me: a

note

note has been clandestinely delivered to me by Amponah, from Mrs. Apshorp. She is at the house of a relation four miles from hence ; and, alarmed for my safety, as every one, indeed, has been for that of his neighbour, sent this inquiry, which Amponah has ventured to give me notwithstanding the strict injunctions, with menaces of punishment for disobedience, which my father repeated to his whole household, and left orders with Mr. Grabb to enforce.

“ I have answered her : for even the semblance of friendship is soothing to one who lives, as I have lately done, cut off from all human intercourse, and persecuted even to death by him who ought to be my protector, my friend, my father ! Yet I own, that since I have been convinced she had designs of her own in those proceedings, which I thought arose solely from disinterested kindness, I do not feel that affection for her which I did.”





“ Scarce, my dearest friend! was I allowed to finish the last sentence, before I was informed that the people and carriage appointed to conduct me hither were ready. I had no choice; my remonstrances, my entreaties for time were not even listened to. I will not describe my journey, in which I was attended only by a mulatto woman; for Juana was not allowed to accompany me, and as her children were slaves on the estate I have left, I would not have pressed for her attendance hither, even had it been likely that it would have been granted. I was miserable, even more so than I had ever been yet. Ah! surely, if ever you should read these pages, many of them hardly legible, others blotted with my tears, you will be even weary of my miseries, and my real distresses may have the effect of those generally popular novels I remember to have read in England, of which I heard people complain,

complain, that they contained such a series of impossible calamity, as to blunt at once compassion and curiosity. I write on, however, notwithstanding this painful idea, which perpetually intrudes upon me. I write without knowing, and hardly daring to hope, that my narrative will be read by him for whom it is intended.

“ I expected to have found my father, his elected son-in-law, and a friend of his, a clergyman (Heavens! *are there in the church such men as he is represented to be?*), waiting my arrival; and—no, Denbigh, I dare not tell you the projects with which my mind was occupied, nor what I might perhaps have been driven to, had they been so assembled with a view to this detested sale, which my father means to make of his unhappy child! I felt as if a weight, under which it would have been impossible for me to have supported myself, was suddenly taken from my mind, when  
I found

I found, that this party not only was not there, but that they had yet sent no notice of the time when they intended it. General orders of preparation had, however, been received; but that the dreadful alternative to which I might be exposed was not so immediately to crush me, I was thankful. I slept with some tranquillity the evening after my arrival; and yesterday, as the weather, particularly on this side the island, is comparatively cool, I had command enough over myself to detach my mind, for a little while, from the sad subject of my apprehensions, and examine the singular scenery with which I am surrounded.

“And it is, indeed, scenery so new and magnificent, that I must be quite crushed by my miseries, if I could behold it without admiration. The house, a very indifferent one, is about three quarters of a mile from the sea, of which there is from the front a noble view. To the southward run out green  
pro-

promontories, covered with mountain palms and plantains, with all the singular appendages of Indian landscape. Around the house here, contrary to the other part of the island, for land seems as of no more value than in Europe, is an inclosure like a small English park ; and here are many beautiful trees and shrubs ; the tree jasmine, the pomegranate and the mango ; together with groups of oranges, lemons, lime, and shaddocks, that perfume the air with almost oppressive odours. Behind the house, and beyond this half natural shrubbery, rise the mountains, which gradually increase in height to the distance of fifteen or twenty miles, where they seem to tower to the clouds, and of which many parts of them have, as I am told, never been visited by Europeans. It is there, amid the forests of mahogany and ceiba, the Indian fig, and other immense trees whose names I do not know, and amidst the deep gullies  
with

with which those towering ridges are intersected from the immense volumes of water that fall during the rainy season, that the Maroons, those people who have lately excited so much alarm, live sequestered from oppression, and are often able to issue from their sylvan fortresses, and retaliate on their oppressors. Their community is frequently increased by fugitive negroes, and is lately become so formidable, that means have been devised wholly to extirpate and destroy them; which is, perhaps, very politic, but I can hardly think it just.

“As very great apprehensions had been felt on the other side the island, on account of the depredations of these people, and as I am afraid, by all I can learn, that my father is among those who, from the rigour of his proceedings, is very likely to be particularly obnoxious to them, I cannot help feeling some surprise at his choosing his present residence, where it seems to me that  
his

his property and his family are much more exposed to any injuries they are capable of doing. The nights are now more calm and mild, and the climate not much unlike the south of France; at least I love to recall that country, where I was happy, and where we first met. I sat last night under a sort of corridor that goes round the house. There was a solemnity in the scene, and in the sounds, that I felt but cannot describe. To the north, a heavy swelling sea broke monotonously, though violently, on the rough shore; the rocks and caverns re-echoed to the thunder of the waves. In the measured pauses of this burst of water were now and then heard, among the woods that clothe the mountains, noises which, I was informed, are the signals used by the Maroons and runaway negroes to collect their numbers or hold their councils. Sometimes it was a few dull notes struck in a particular manner on their gombay

gombay or drum, answered by the same number of strokes from another quarter. At another time, it was the sullen sound of a great shell; which is, they say, used every where by the savages as a war signal; and this was answered by hollow human voices from different parts—Some I supposed to be very near the house, so near, that at any other time, I own, I should not have thought of such neighbours with indifference. But it is not for me, who momentarily expect the arrival of my father and his friend, to dread any other earthly calamity that can befall me.

‘ Had I not these very serious miseries to overwhelm my mind, I should feel more relief than I do from the absence of many petty inconveniences which the season and the climate occasion. The muskitos, against which none of the contrivances we have are entirely a security, are now no longer troublesome; nor do the cock roaches, knockers, and  
other

other odious insects, now torment me as they did on the other side of the island. I have so little fear of the Maroons, who I am persuaded would not injure me, for I have never injured them, that I ventured out yesterday evening beyond the inclosure surrounding the house. I never saw any thing so beautiful as the woods, which are for some extent up the hills quite clear of bushes or thorns, and overshadow, not turf indeed, such as we sometimes see in England, but long and luxurious grass; among which creep the little lizards, green as animated emeralds, and not only perfectly harmless, but, as it is affirmed, friendly to the human race; and a sort of ground dove, still more interesting—while innumerable other doves and plovers find food and shelter among the trees above. I should, perhaps, have wandered much farther than prudence would have permitted, had day sunk gradually into night as it does in other latitudes;



latitudes; but here it becomes dark at once : and as I was hastening back, yet dreading to enter the house, where I feared I might hear my father was arrived, I was surpris'd by perceiving sudden flashes of vivid light darting about among the trees. As, however, they gave me no idea of any human contrivance, I was not alarmed; and it immediately occurred to me that they were fire-flies, and I remembered your having described some you saw in Italy. They are not common here, but among the mountainous and woody parts of the island; and I find the negroes have some strange superstitious notions about them, as, indeed, they have some wild and absurd impression or other in regard to every object that surrounds them. It is weak and ridiculous, I know, and you, my friend, will severely reprove me for it, if I should ever be so fortunate as to know that these letters reach you. But I will not disguise my folly : there are times

times when the hideous phantasies of these poor uninformed savages affect my spirits with a sort of dread, which all my conviction of their fallacy does not enable me to subdue. Little Maria used to talk to me of their Obeahs, persons who persuade others, and perhaps believe themselves, that they possess supernatural powers, acquired by I know not what operations, resembling, as far as I could learn, those of the witches in Macbeth round the magic cauldron. I afterwards fancied that the two or three the little girl pointed out to me had something particularly horrid in their appearance; yet, as they are liable to severe punishment if their being Obi men or women is known, they carefully conceal any outward appearance of their profession. But the mulattoes, and the unfortunate children belonging to them and white parents, who are brought up amidst all the vices and superstitions of the negroes, are too apt to imbibe both

the one and the other; and what attempts have been made to give them other ideas, seem to me only to have made in their minds a sort of 'darkness visible.' These Obi men and women are, as I have been informed, more numerous here than in the other plantations: and I shudder involuntarily when I fancy, from the mysterious looks and odd gestures of some of them, that they are deeply initiated in these wild rites of superstition.

"Amponah was among the people who were appointed to attend me hither, and it is from him that I receive almost all the information I am able to obtain from any quarter. The poor fellow, from his residence in England and his attendance on my brother, has acquired more knowledge than the generality of the people of his colour; and all the attachment he felt for my brother, near whose person he was brought up, is very naturally transferred to me. As to my  
father,

father, he has conceived such an extreme terror of him, owing, I believe, to some severities that have been inflicted on him for trifling faults, that I have seen him turn pale and tremble when he has been speaking of him; and while he has been telling me what he has discovered, or heard from others of people, of the intentions that have been formed as to the conclusion of my marriage, his agitation has been so extreme, that he suddenly became inarticulate, the big drops trembled on his forehead, and his breath became so short, that he could not continue speaking, but was compelled to leave the room to recover himself. Alas, Denbigh! to what a situation is your unhappy friend reduced, when her only counsellor is a poor negro slave! and when she has no friendly bosom on which she can rely for more rational advice; or to whom she dares to confide the information he ventures his life to procure for her!

“ I here break off. I lock my papers and your letters, Denbigh, into a very small cabinet, made for me, of the fine woods of this country, by a brother of Amponah’s ; and I determine to send it to Mrs. Aphorp, Amponah having assured me he will find means to convey it safely, with a few words, the last perhaps after these that I shall ever write ; for Amponah has discovered, that to-morrow evening my father, his friend, and a man who is called a clergyman, are to be here. Mr. Grabb, who is a relation, it seems, and protected by Sawkins, is already come, though he keeps himself out of my sight ; and preparations are silently making for the wicked, the inhuman sacrifice !

“ No, Denbigh ! no. It will never, it shall never be. The wretched creatures of whom I have spoken, that pass here for having the power to look into futurity, in vain declare that a marriage and great festival will soon happen here. A  
funeral

funeral will be the festival, if there is any; for I can die. Misery so overwhelming as that which threatens me will destroy me. I hear again the gombay in the woods; I hear the strange yells as of savage triumph, and I shudder to think that there is no alternative. I must either endeavour to fly—yet whither, and to whom?—at the hazard of falling into these people's hands, or I must await the fate designed for me by my cruel, my unnatural parent! Oh, my dear, dear friend! how would your generous heart feel for your unhappy Henrietta, could her present calamitous condition be known to you! Should this reach you—(it cannot reach you till long after my destiny is decided, probably not till long after this poor form is perishing in the grave)—forgive me, Denbigh! my errors (and severely have they been punished) were rather of my head than of my heart; the effects of prejudice rather than perverseness. Den-

F 3.

high!

high! when some happier, some more deserving woman is in possession of that place in your affections which I was unworthy to fill, do not speak of me with the indifference I deserve; but recollect with compassion the poor Henrietta, whose last wish will be for your felicity. My tears—yet it is not always that I can weep—my tears blind me; and scarcely can my trembling hand make legible this last adieu."

## LETTER III.

THE narrative of the poor persecuted Henrietta was here interrupted ; and on my applying to my friend Denbigh for the sequel, he thus related it, filling up the chasm till she again resumed the pen :

“ You see,” said he, “ the date of this last letter. I arrived at Jamaica three days earlier than that date ; and without any inquiry after my other friends, I hastened only to inform myself of Henrietta ; but the accounts I received bewildered for awhile, and then nearly distracted me. By some persons I was assured she had been married some time ; by others, that she had been sent no one knew whither, by her father, for having positively refused to

F 4

accept



accept the husband he had chosen for her. Kingston was, however, remote from any of Mr. Maynard's houses; and though the colonies in general are as much or more infested with tale-bearers and gossips than the provincial towns of England, it happened at that time, that public events materially affecting them, the increasing alarm from the insurgent Maroons, and an epidemical complaint of the most alarming nature, had co-operated to call off the attention of individuals from every thing but the preservation of their property and their families. And though Mr. Maynard was, on account of his fortune, one of the Assembly, he was very little beloved, and his daughter not at all known; and of what had befallen either the one or the other it was impossible to obtain correct intelligence where I was. I lost not a moment, therefore, in hastening to his principal residence on the other side of the island,

that

that to which Henrietta had been first carried. Arrived there, I inquired of the first negro I met for Mr. Maynard. The poor fellow appeared to be afraid of answering me; and upon my entreating him to speak out, and assuring him I had business of the greatest consequence with his master, he pointed, with evident symptoms of apprehension, to the house of the overseer, at the end of a row of palmetos, many of which had been blown down by a hurricane that had happened, he told me, in that part of the island three weeks before. ‘None of the family suffered?’ said I eagerly. ‘Only two tree negro kill,’ replied the man. ‘But Miss Maynard, your master’s daughter, where is she?’ The negro shook his head: ‘No say, massa. One my ship-mate flog for make question—for tell tings.’ This mystery was insupportable. The manager to whom I was then compelled to apply was only a sort of second or third under the

chief deputy, who was, I found, absent. This man seemed the most sullen brute I had ever talked to ; he either could not or would not give me any satisfaction whatsoever. I presently became impatient, and insisted upon his telling me where I could speak to his master ; which he refused to do unless I would tell him my business. There was something so ferociously mysterious in his manner, that my alarm increased, and I tried to conquer my indignation, while I said, ‘ You will surely tell me, Sir, whether Mr. Maynard is at home ? ’ — ‘ I cannot tell you, Sir, what I do not know. ’ — ‘ Is he here, on this estate ? ’ — ‘ No. ’ — ‘ At which of his estates is he ? ’ — ‘ I cannot tell. ’ — ‘ Where is his daughter ? ’ — ‘ I know nothing about his daughter. ’ — ‘ Good God, Sir ! you can tell me whether she is married or single ? ’ — ‘ She was to have been married as last Thursday ; but I do not know that she was. ’ — ‘ Where, Sir,’ continued I in

increased agitation, 'was the ceremony to have taken place?'—'At Mr. Maynard's northern plantation.'—'And did it not take place?'—'I—I—really, Sir, these questions from a stranger are somewhat extraordinary. I do not know, Sir, that you have any right to ask them; but, be that as it may, I have no authority to answer them. Your servant, Sir; I wish you a good day.' The worthy manager then retired to his *sangarie*, and, turning away in inexpressible mortification, I was about to inquire of some of the negroes; but a servant from the manager's house followed me, and at a signal he made every person disappeared; and none, I was persuaded, would have answered my question, had I found an opportunity to put it. Half frantic, I stopped merely to argue with my impetuous passions on the necessity of patience and resolution; resolution, without which it seemed to be impossible for me to know, or, knowing, to endure, the

extent of the misery to which I might be condemned. Henrietta married under circumstances of compulsion; or, Henrietta forgetting me, and throwing me from her affection for ever, were almost equally terrible to my imagination: yet, so truly did I love her, that it was less terrible to believe her faithless to me, than the sad victim of her father's inhuman tyranny. If, said I as soon as I could reflect, if she has broken for ever all those ties which united us, I shall, it is true, be wretched. But time will enable me to look with calmness on the conduct of a woman, who, if she could so act, could never deserve the tenderness I have felt for her. If, on the contrary, she is condemned by her cruel and brutal father to throw herself into the arms of a man she abhors, to become a legal prostitute to a contemptible wretch whom she must loath and abhor!—The very idea is so hideous to my imagination, that it would be impos-

fible for me ever to suffer the reality ;  
 and I should undoubtedly sacrifice to  
 my vengeance the monsters that had  
 dared to use the established forms of  
 life in violation of every principle of  
 moral or human rights. Alas ! all these  
 meditations, far from forwarding any  
 project for the relief of my poor Hen-  
 rietta, served only to render me inca-  
 pable of assisting her. I felt my brain  
 inflamed by the violence of my emo-  
 tions. I became giddy and confused ;  
 yet, determined not to ask, what would  
 probably have been refused, a moment's  
 repose at the house or among the people  
 of Maynard, I rode forward not know-  
 ing where or why. The hottest season  
 was now at hand : the ardour of a tro-  
 pical sun, darting on my throbbing tem-  
 ples, was, though I was myself almost in-  
 sensible of it, not long to be endured  
 with impunity. Even the poor faithful  
 black servant, who followed me on  
 horseback, was nearly overcome ; when,  
 arriving

arriving at that part of the country where the blue mountains begin to be very steep, and are cut with wide and deep gullies, my horse, quite exhausted with fatigue, (for I had heeded his corporeal feelings no more than my own) fell with me in a very rocky and stony road, and I know not what became of me for many hours.

“ This happened in the country which was actually the seat of the Maroon insurrection. I knew very little of it. I had inquired after nothing, I had thought of nothing, but Henrietta! My sensations therefore, if personal safety had been the object of my solicitude, would not have been very comfortable, when, awaking from insensibility, I found myself surrounded by men of colour, whom I immediately knew, as well by their appearance as by the place where they were, to be Maroons and runaway negroes, and from whom it was likely I should receive as little mercy as had  
been

been by the generality of my countrymen shewn to them. They appeared, however, to be administering remedies to the hurts I had received by my fall ; and Ambo, my servant, perceiving that I was sensible, uttered an exclamation of joy, and, kneeling by me, wept like a child. I understood, that when he saw me fall, and found I was severely hurt, he ran into the woods, whence he imagined he perceived the smoke of negro-houses, and had soon fallen in with a party of armed Maroons and blacks, to whom, without attending to their hostile appearance, he had briefly related my misfortune, and entreated their succour. These men were lying in wait for a small detachment of militia, who, they had been told, were to pass that way ; and it was only his agitation for my safety, and the extreme simplicity of my servant, that convinced them I was not, what they had at first supposed, one of the officers of that militia. They followed



lowed my servant to the place where he had left me, and I was now their prisoner; yet a prisoner towards whom they were disposed to shew every sort of kindness, on the report of my servant, whose honest solicitude for me convinced them I was not one of those whom their unfortunate race have reason to pursue with execrations and with vengeance. I soon recovered recollection enough to endeavour to avail myself of their favourable disposition towards me. I represented to him who seemed to have the greatest authority among them, that more than my life depended on my being suffered instantly to depart; and when he asked an explanation, I briefly related whither I was going. Appealing to all of nature that oppression had left in the hearts of these wild people, I told them of the force which I had reason to dread would be put on the inclinations of the woman I loved, and to whom I had been betrothed

trothed in England. I observed, that when I named Mr. Maynard, and said that I was going to his northern estate in hopes of preventing this accursed marriage, they looked significantly at each other; and at length one of them, who appeared to be more ferocious and less considerate than the rest, told me, that to hasten whither I was going was utterly useless, because it was now some days since that plantation had been destroyed, in retaliation for the cruelty with which their people (the Maroons) had been pursued, persecuted, and punished by Mr. Maynard. I felt my blood run cold to my heart at this information, and hardly had strength and courage to ask, what became of the persons who were in the house, when it was, as I understood, set on fire? The same man answered, that the women and slaves were carried up the mountain—Maynard himself was not there—They had been misinformed as to the time of  
his

his arrival to celebrate the marriage of his daughter, on the very day of which they intended to have struck the blow ; but having gone too far to retreat before they were aware of their mistake, they had executed their plan as far as it related to the destruction of his property, and the captivity of his family, reserving their vengeance against him personally till they could completely gratify it.

“ While the man continued to speak, I was become half frantic from the crowd of terrific ideas that rushed on my mind relative to Henrietta. She was released from the power of Maynard only to fall into that of savages, always terrible in their passions, and in whom the fierce inclination for European women was now likely to be exalted by the desire of revenge on a man so detested as the father of my unhappy Henrietta ! I cannot—no, my friend ! I will not attempt to tell you what were at that moment my feelings. Yet, dreadfully acute

as

as they were, I knew it was absolutely necessary for me to disguise them. Henrietta might yet live; and however wretched it was likely we should both be, I could not determine to abandon her, though I were sure to find her disgraced and undone. I could die with her —(for I knew she never would survive the horrors I dreaded for her)—I could die with her, if to live for her were denied. Once certain, therefore, and I soon was but too certain, that Henrietta was carried to the fastnesses among the mountainous forests, where the Maroons held impregnable stations, I no longer sought my liberty. I endeavoured only, by means of Ambo, to prevail on my captors to allow me to go with them; and they were assured that I would remain as a hostage, while Ambo should be dispatched to bring them an ample ransom, and that I would, in the mean time, submit to the restraint of following their party whithersoever they went.

“ Captain

Captain Degomai, the commander, to whom it was left to decide on my destiny, took some time to consider of my proposal, and at length told me, that he could not entirely assent to it. The offer of a considerable ransom had its weight: yet how could he trust to the faith of Ambo, who seemed so attached to me, and who, instead of returning, might bring the enemy to their strong holds, and utterly undo them? That proposal, therefore, he must reject; but he would take both myself and my servant up the country to the woods, and consult with his chief; while, on my tranquilly submitting to my imprisonment, and not attempting to make myself master of any of their secrets, it must finally depend whether I should be treated like an enemy or a friend. I found all remonstrance would be in vain; but delay in any way was death to me. It happened, however, an alarm was given at that moment, that a large  
body

body of regular forces and militia, assembled by the gentlemen nearest to the estates that had lately suffered, was rapidly advancing with artillery towards their principal fortrefs; and a scout came from their main body with this intelligence, and orders from their Maroon general to hasten thither with all possible speed. This appeared to be a very unfavourable moment for me; and under some circumstances it would have probably happened that I should have been stabbed, or shot at once, to prevent all inquiry or the hazard of my escape; but Ambo, who had found means to make himself much beloved among them, had, by this time, discovered his near relation, a brother by the same father, who was a sort of second in command; and, I believe, that circumstance saved my life. I was, however, marched up the country as a prisoner; while the agony of my mind, dwelling continually on the fate of Henrietta, so far rendered me

me unconscious of personal suffering, that I neither felt the fatigue of such a march, or the pain from my bruises. I hardly heeded what was said; I hardly felt my own situation, and remembered I was a captive only because it prevented my throwing myself at all hazards into any place where it was likely my dear unhappy girl might be found.

“I was conscious that my life hung but by a thread; the slightest suspicion was sufficient to destroy me; and more than one of the party, whose prisoner I was, regarded me, as I could plainly perceive, with distrust. Occupied, however, by one object, my own danger became indifferent to me; and I appeared to be so totally insensible to every thing, which, if I had any invidious designs, would have attracted my attention, that during our march my captors gradually became less careful of confining me amongst them. On the second evening, while they still lingered around the woody region of a  
moun.

mountain, for reasons which I did not comprehend, and dared not inquire into, the whole party sat down at night-fall under a high chain of rocks, which formed a natural and almost insurmountable barrier to the higher grounds, unless to those who knew the winding and rugged paths which led among them. The men produced two small casks of rum; and while some went to fill their calabashes at a spring, which gushed through the cliff, glittering in the moonbeam as it fell, others made a fire, and prepared the pork and kid, which they had brought, with yams and bananas. I shall never forget the group as they appeared beneath the bright light of the moon then at full. The strange dresses, where Indian nakedness was oddly intermingled with military ornaments; their dark faces, and that peculiar look of ferocity which the eye of the negro rolling in its deep socket gives to the whole race of Africans, and which was,

in



in one instance, rendered more so by the plumed helmet of an English soldier, whom the black had killed and stripped; in another by a sort of turban, from which waved the scarlet feathers of the mackaw; and in a third by part of an old uniform, and a laced hat. I stood leaning against an excavated rock behind them, listening with increased anguish to their conversation, as the spirits and good cheer began to make them noisy and unreserved. I had, from a boy, understood a little of their wild jargon, and now fancied they spoke of their women, and of white women whom their chief had made captives in their late excursion among the plantations to the north. I looked at Ambo, to whom I dared not speak apart, for any conversation between us was, I found, offensive; but I was sure, from the countenance and gestures of Ambo, that he understood their discourse better than I did, and that it related to Henrietta.

This

This terrible certainty, since every hope that it might not be so seemed now to be at an end, quite subdued my fortitude, and I sunk almost senseless on the ground. Poor Ambo obtained for me a glass of their rum, and was kneeling to administer it to his apparently dying master, when a sudden shout in the woods below suspended at once the savage mirth of the Maroons; they listened, but it was not repeated: yet every man flew to arms. A scout immediately sprang forth to discover whence proceeded a noise which they knew was not made by friends. Hardly, however, were these precautions taken when a volley of shot was fired amongst us. It killed two, and wounded five; among whom was my poor Ambo, as I afterwards found. No description can do justice to the hideous yells which now resounded among the rocks and woods. The assailants and the assailed mingled their cries, which were returned and

deepened by the hollow caverns. Another volley from the still concealed foe silenced for ever some of the most clamorous; and the rest being driven to despair, their natural and acquired fierceness of character urged them to such revenge as was yet in their power; and the man whom I had considered as a sort of second in command, and in whom I had observed symptoms of peculiar malignity, rushed with another towards me, and, each seizing an arm, hurried me away into the thickest covert of the wood near them, exerting such strength and agility as I could not perhaps have effectually resisted at any time; but enfeebled as I was, yet animated by the hope that I might rescue Henrietta, if I could speak to the armed party who had made the assault, I struggled with my utmost power to disengage myself; when the place we were in being choked with trees and pieces of rock, it was impossible for the men to compel me to go on;

and to consult at once their safety and their vengeance, one of the negroes drew a dirk he wore, and stabbed me twice. The first blow penetrated my arm, the second my side; and imagining he had killed me, or not daring to stay to complete his work, he and his companion fled, and left me weltering in my blood. I was not, however, insensible, and had sufficient presence of mind to endeavour to stop the blood which gushed from the wound in my side, while I listened attentively in hopes of hearing the hostile party, who would be friendly to *me*, approach; but after a tumult of some moments, and some conversation in which I supposed it was discussed whether they should pursue the fugitives, their voices as they descended among the woods were more faintly heard, and then gradually died away. The only poor hope I had seemed to perish when I no longer distinguished the voices of the English soldiers. I collected, however, all my strength, and endeavoured

to get up and follow them: but though I was upon my feet, and able to stand supported by a tree, yet in a moment my eyes grew dim, my head giddy, I concluded my death immediate, and, faintly uttering the name of Henrietta, ceased to think or to breathe. I lay some hours in that state; for when I recovered myself it was the dawn of day. My wounds had ceased to pour forth the blood in which I found myself lying; but I was deadly sick, and for some time unable to recall distinctly what had happened. With consciousness returned my intolerable anguish; and I figured to myself my wretched Henrietta under sufferings which maddened my brain. I knew not what I did; yet I crawled with extreme difficulty to the scene of the preceding night's attack, and with horror beheld the distorted countenances of several Blacks and Maroons who had been killed; while among them I distinguished, with the greatest regret, the face of my  
 poor

poor Amo, who had perished for his attachment to me. Sinking to the earth, I believed myself about to follow him, when, in the woody cliffs above, I heard the sound of those savage instruments by which the Maroons call to battle, and I doubted not but that they were coming down in force to meet the party who had attacked them. If I was perceived, it was probable that my existence would end amidst the most excruciating tortures : and wretched as I was, the instinctive love of life, or rather dread of such a death, urged me to attempt my escape. I crept, therefore, again into the descending woods, in a direction opposite to that whither I had been forced by the Maroons. My progress was slow ; for I was so weak, that I was compelled to drag myself along by holding the trees on either hand. Yet even thus heavily advancing fatigued me so much, that I felt my wounds beginning to bleed afresh ; and that I

should again faint, if I could not staunch the bleeding. I gathered some leaves, and, folding one on another, applied them to my wounds, which I thought I perceived would not be mortal, if the loss of blood they occasioned did not exhaust me. On these high regions there are few cocoa or other fruit-bearing trees; but I found some of the fruit called sweet sop, which for a while extremely refreshed me. I continued to creep on, being sometimes under the necessity of resting for many minutes; and in these intervals I anxiously listened to the noises which would give me any information of the motions of those whom I now considered as my murderers; and from whom, if they tracked me, I imagined it to be impossible to escape. But it was high noon, and the continual buzzing of the muskitoes and other insects made it impossible for me to distinguish any distant sounds, while their stings greatly increased my torment;

torment; and the heat, notwithstanding I was among high grounds, was so oppressive, that it was almost impossible for me to proceed. Yet to obtain any repose was equally impossible; and despair of being able to save my unhappy Henrietta added so severely to my personal sufferings, that I hardly retained my senses, the cruel agony I endured being such as I could not long sustain and live. An insatiable and tormenting thirst added to my bodily pain, and the fruits I found were insufficient to allay it. I listened for the sound of water, and at last thought I heard it murmur in the gulley below. But in my situation, an attempt to follow a descent of near a hundred yards, which, but for the trees and shrubs, would have appeared almost perpendicular, was by no means easy. These gulleys I knew to be the peculiar lurking-places of fugitive negroes, who had fled from their masters without having yet had courage or opportunity



portunity to join the insurgent Maroons; and I might perhaps meet with some who might quickly put an end to my faint and almost involuntary struggles to preserve a worthless or miserable existence.

“Once more, however, exerting myself to the utmost of my power, rather from instinct than reason, I began to attempt descending this fearful chasm. The bolls and branches of the trees sustained me, while the roots, starting in many places from the rock, gave me a footing which the rock itself often denied. I believe I was almost three hours laboriously reaching the bottom of this chasm. I did, however, reach it, and threw myself more than half dead on the high and luxuriant grass, or rather reeds, which bordered a small rapid stream, whose spring was far on the cliffs above. When I had recovered my breath and recollection, I eagerly turned to the water; and with my hands, for I had no  
bat

hat or any thing else by which to convey it, I endeavoured to appease the consuming thirst which devoured me; and never did the pure element administer its refreshment to lips more parched, or weakness more oppressive than what I suffered. Quite overcome by excessive exertion and loss of blood, which always disposes to sleep, forgetfulness stole over me. The dark recesses where I lay seemed never to have been trodden by human feet, and monkeys, parroquets, and doves appeared to be the undisturbed proprietors of the soil. But had there been vestiges of more hostile inhabitants, I was no longer capable of calculating my danger, and the body refused to support any longer the overwhelming agonies of the mind. Had I been told that I could sleep for many hours (for now I really slept) without once remembering that Henrietta was lost to me for ever, and was in all probability suffering indignities which were

infinitely worse than death, I should have spurned at the supposition as a calumny most derogatory to every feeling of affection or honour. Yet there is a period of suffering when the most active mind sinks into torpor, and the vital principle alone keeps up the languid pulsation of the heart. Even this degree of life I should not have retained, had I not been in the very strength of youthful manhood, and possessed a sound and unbroken constitution.

“ In the partial insensibility I had thus fallen into, fancy was at length busy; and after some hours I imagined that a person stood by me, spoke to me in a friendly voice, touched my face and hands, and bade me try to rise. The vision was confused, and soon disappeared. Yet a second time it came, and a second time faded into air. Again I imagined this compassionate voice murmured in my ears: and that a man of my own colour and country stood  
near

near me, chafing my temples and hands. I opened my eyes, and perceived a human figure, but a very unusual one; and still believing myself in a dream, I looked round me, saw the objects I had seen before I slept, and recovered a sort of confused consciousness of all that had happened, and of the place where I was. The figure, seeing that I was sensible, then sat down by me, and inquired who I was, and by what chance I came in that condition into such a place? I tried, but in vain, to answer his questions coherently. He perceived how unable I was to satisfy his curiosity; and asked me, if with assistance I could rise from the ground? I found it very difficult, as well because of my weakness as the foreness of my limbs. At length, however, I found myself able to move, leaning on my friendly conductor; and after walking, or rather creeping, along among brushwood and mangroves, on the edge of the rivulet, which were

sometimes so thickly interwoven, that it was to me a most laborious task to get through them, we arrived at a narrow path up the precipice, which might be almost called a ladder of rocks. I climbed, or rather was dragged up with considerable difficulty by my conductor, till suddenly I saw one of those caves so frequent in these mountains, and usually the abode of those giant bats which are found in the tropical regions, or of wild pigeons; and often of wretched negroes, who hazard the want of food, or live by nightly plunder, to escape from punishment or oppression. The place I now saw, however, was in some degree accommodated to the residence of a being of another description; and when I looked around it, and beheld its inhabitant, the fable which had most delighted my youth occurred to me, and I imagined myself in the inward apartment of Robinson Crusoe. My  
new

new friend was an Englishman, between fifty and sixty : his complexion was that of one who had lived much in hot climates, and his features bore the traces of some deep affliction. It was easy to perceive by his manner, and the tones of his voice, that his education had been that of a gentleman. His dress was not much unlike the costume of some religious orders, except that his robe was of the blue cotton, woven and dyed by the negroes, and his grey hair was covered by a large hat of woven straw or reeds, not unlike those worn by peasants in some parts of Italy. He seemed unconscious of the singularity of his appearance, and how much surprised I must be to see such a person in such a place : but, attentive only to my wants, he hastened to dress my wounds, which he performed with the skill of a surgeon ; then furnished me with a slight repast of cassida bread, yams, and chocolate, not allowing me to take any thing spiritous. He gave me  
some

some of his own linen, which was extremely refreshing; and forbidding me to speak more than to tell him my name, and that in crossing the country I had fallen into the power of the Maroons, he led me to an enclosure hung with matting within the rock, where there was a mattress on the floor, and some cotton bedding, on which bidding me repose myself he left me. Repose, however, it was impossible to obtain. I looked round me by the light of a small lamp fed with palm oil, and could hardly persuade myself that all that had passed was not a dream, from which I was not yet awakened. I raised myself on the arm of which I had still the use, and listened, trying to ascertain if I was really in possession of my senses. I found myself now able distinctly to carry my mind to the progress of my sufferings; and then the cruel recollection of Henrietta, lost for ever, came with all its former force, and I ceased to think of myself,

myself; or to recollect that I personally suffered. It immediately occurred to me, that my new friend might know something of the late transactions of the Maroons; for it seemed difficult to conceive how a European could live, as he appeared to do, in the very midst of their recesses, without being, if not their associate, at least one who knew how to conciliate them—or to inhabit such an abode would have been impracticable. Again I listened; but besides that it was now night, the intervention of the rock prevented my hearing any thing without but a dull indistinct murmur of the land-wind among the high trees rising above it.

“ My spirits became more and more active, and I believed myself capable of rising, seeking my incomprehensible host, and relating to him the cause of my wanderings, and the great source of my disquiet; when, having crept to the sort of door, composed of reeds, joined  
some-



something in the manner of the fences with which we enclose our melon-grounds in England, I thought I heard two persons in the outer cave conversing; and though they spoke in a very low tone, I fancied one of them was a woman. On a sudden they seemed to be alarmed at some noise, and 'I held my breath lest it should have been my approach that put an end to their conference. One of them I could hear glided away; for I now found the reeds were in some places broken, and in others might easily have been removed by the hand; but it was too dark for me to discover who the other person was whom I had for a moment heard conversing with the hermit of the cave, for so I called him, not knowing indeed to what description of being he could be said to belong.

“My movements were not so silent but that my host heard me. He appeared, on opening the door, to be astonished to find

find me able to move, and gently remonstrated with me on my imprudence. I answered him, by saying, that I was ashamed of having suffered personal considerations to detain me a trespasser on his humanity, while a dearer interest, the welfare of one for whose preservation my life would be readily relinquished, was probably in a situation which I could not think of without being driven to phrensy. While I spoke, my agitation became so great, that my new friend, believing I should fall led me to a seat on one side of a table, while he sat down opposite, and in a firm yet soothing voice bade me remember, that to suffer was the lot of man, and that superiority of mind was shown only by suffering well. There was a lamp on the table between us; his hat was off, and I now saw a countenance where the hand of misery had deepened the traces marked by the lapse of almost sixty years. Yet it was one of those faces on  
which

which the eye loves to dwell, while it gives confidence to the heart. There was, however, a peculiar though transient wildness in his eyes, while he thus spoke: ‘I have been,’ said he, ‘so wretched a wanderer in this world, that, quitting it as far as was in my power, I no longer consider myself as one of its inhabitants. Yet here, even here, amid the mountainous forests of a tropical island, does the voice of misery reach me. Hither am I pursued by the sight of sufferings and of sorrows which man brings on man!’

“He paused, and seemed to await a reply—I was in no condition to give one.

‘Misery,’ continued he, ‘is, indeed, the certain concomitant of slavery. It follows with undeviating step the tyrant who imposes, and the slave who endures the fetters. Are you of this country, Sir? or are you one of the military sent from England?’

“A brief yet incoherent account of  
what

what and who I was followed. I added the short story of my separation from Henrietta, and the hopes of saving her from a detested marriage, with which, not knowing much of the situation of the country, and totally careless of any consequences to myself by travelling through it, I had hurried away from one of Mr. Maynard's houses to the other. The friendly recluse heard me with surprise, which was, I thought, accompanied by an expression of countenance very different from that of concern. He seemed to be considering of his answer, when the conchs and gongoms of the Maroons suddenly broke the silence of the night, and appeared to be very near the habitation of my protector. He changed countenance; but immediately recovering himself, he put out the lamp, and said in a low voice: 'These people, though in a state of warfare against Europeans, are not inimical to me. They are used to see me, and know that I take no  
part

part against them ; but it will not be safe for you to be seen. Retire, therefore, to your mattresses, remain quite still, that, should any of them enter this place as they sometimes do, I may appear to be as usual—alone.’ I hesitated not to do as he bade me ; yet I own I was very far from being at my ease, when I heard three or four hoarse voices salute my host in a language of which I understood nothing but two or three words, and those hostile, borrowed from the negro English of the colonies. My friend answered them in the same jargon in a mild and manly tone ; and offered them, as I imagined, some kind of spirits, which they accepted. Some of them laughed immoderately, shouted, and clapped their hands, appearing to describe some recent success, and sounding to my ears like expressions of barbarous triumph. Perhaps they were relating their having possessed themselves of the daughter of Maynard, after having ravaged his estate.

estate. I found this apprehension so terrible, that I could not long have remained tranquil; I think, had no consideration for my kind protector interposed, I should have rushed out to have met death, rather than sustain the horrors of my imagination in regard to Henrietta. But it fortunately happened that their arrangements for the night did not allow them to stay long; they apparently went away, and silence followed their wild clamour, save that drums, as of other parties about to assemble at some place of general rendezvous, were remotely heard about the mountains. Within the strange abode that sheltered me, all soon became profoundly quiet, so much so, that I began to doubt whether the inhabitant of the cave had not himself been compelled to accompany them, or, thinking he might mitigate their ferocity, had voluntarily been of their party. My sensations were in the mean time the most uneasy

uneasy and insupportable. Nature was absolutely exhausted by fatigue and loss of blood, yet it was impossible for me to take the repose even of a moment. Again I listened, and then, impatient of the uncertainty and suspense, again ventured to creep on my hands and knees to the door; and by attentively laying my ear to the vacancies in the reeds, I thought myself sure that the master of the habitation was no longer in that part of it where we had conversed; he was then, perhaps, retired to some other part where he slept (for I had observed another passage worked in the rock, and secured by another door of reeds or canes); yet it seemed inconsistent with his humane and manly bearing that he should leave me, after such an alarm, to pass a sleepless night in uneasy conjectures. The longer this uncertainty continued, the more I became persuaded that for some reason or other my friend had found it expedient to leave his hermitage

mitage with his late unwelcome visitors; and in that conviction I ventured softly to open the door which he had shut upon me. There was no other light than what the brightness of the night afforded, through a sort of circular opening above the door; but in these regions, and at this season, the innumerable stars, and a sky without a cloud or a vapour, afford such clear vision, that I had no difficulty in immediately assuring myself my new found friend was not there. It was certain then that he was either gone with the Maroons, or had retired to sleep; and it was very material to me to know to which of these circumstances his absence was owing. I ventured, therefore, to try whether the door which I saw at the end of the cavern would yield to my efforts. The fastening was a simple latch lifted by a string, such as is frequent in cottages in remote parts of England. This door, which I shut after me, did not, as I expected, lead immediately



mediately to another excavation of the rock, but opened to a narrow passage, just wide enough for one person to thread it at a time. I passed *a pas de loup* along it for about thirty yards. It then seemed to narrow; but I was now in total darkness, and the hand alone of that arm I could use was my guide. I came at length to what appeared to be rock, and to bar my further progress. I was, after some moments of unsuccessful examination, about to return, when on one side, within a cavity, I felt that there were reeds such as the outer doors were composed of. This then probably led to the place I was searching for. I found a string such as opened the other doors, and, pulling it, entered a larger apartment than I had yet seen. The lights came from the roof, which was glazed like sky-lights in England; but the creeping plants and the high trees above it a little obscured the window. I could not-

the room lay on a mattress a human figure. I took it for granted it was my friend, who, overcome with fatigue, had retired without thinking it necessary to assure me of safety, which, on the departure of the Maroons, he might not suppose I should doubt. Almost ashamed therefore of having doubted, and unwilling to intrude upon his repose, I was about to withdraw as silently as I had entered, when I stepped on something I knew not what, and I was afraid I might make a noise if I entangled myself among it. I stooped therefore to remove it, and to my astonishment found in my hand the small satin slipper of a woman!

“Almost involuntarily I looked on the figure I had till then taken for my sleeping friend. The moon was now high enough to afford more light than had been lent by the stars that preceded her; and earnestly fixing my eyes on the face of the person extended before me, it

seemed—(gracious Heaven! was I not still in a dream?)—it seemed to be the face of Henrietta—of my own long-loved, lost Henrietta!

“I uttered an exclamation of astonishment, and the uneasy slumber of her I saw fled instantly. Those eyes whose every look was imprinted on my heart were unclosed with an expression of dread and amazement. They beheld, as Henrietta supposed, a stranger, even whose colour, as I bent my head over her, she could not by that light distinguish. She uttered a faint shriek; and terror so immediately possessed her, that she became incapable of hearing what I, kneeling on the ground beside her, attempted to utter. I knew it was Henrietta; but I was in too great confusion of mind to be able to ask, had she been in a condition to reply, how she came there, or what had befallen her. I will not attempt, therefore, to describe the sensations of that moment, or the incoherency

coherency of our first attempts to relate to each other the history of a period I trembled to inquire into, and believed Henrietta would never live to relate; for, no sooner was she assured it was Denbigh who spoke to her, than she appeared to be so overwhelmed by a variety of afflicting emotions, as to lose the power, if not of utterance, of clearly expressing her thoughts; and she continued to press my hand, and in a low and tremulous voice to implore me to forgive her. This scene was interrupted by a noise suddenly echoing along the narrow passage that led to the outward cavern. I felt a degree of fear which throughout my life I had never been sensible of before. The Maroons, with whom I now supposed my host was an associate, were, I concluded, returned, and Henrietta was to be their victim. Of my own life, which would have been undoubtedly the first sacrifice, I thought not: nor do I claim any

applause on that account, either for fortitude or courage. Absorbed in one idea, the danger of the creature dearest to me on earth, my own preservation, though it has been called the first law of nature, was not even recollected; and whoever has fondly loved an amiable object by whom he was beloved, will easily understand how little every other consideration influenced me. Having rapidly conceived the idea that the persons I dreaded were without, and that by opposing them I might afford Henrietta the means of escape, or at least die without witnessing her second captivity and disgrace, I ran, more than half frantic, through the narrow pass, and, unarmed and weakened as I was by my recent wounds, rushed into the outward excavation, where I saw its inhabitant alone, having apparently just lit his lamp; and with a countenance of astonishment, he inquired where I had been, and why I was thus disordered?

“Amazed and ashamed, for his questions immediately restored to me some power of reflection, I said some incoherent words—I hardly know what. ‘I understand you,’ said he: ‘impatient at my absence, you have sought me, and, in doing so, have met another. Is it not so?’

“‘It is,’ I replied; ‘and that other—’

“‘Is Henrietta,’ interrupted he; ‘is that Henrietta whom you love, and have so ardently sought. I knew it from the moment you related to me your name and your situation.’

“I gasped for breath: the violent agitation of my spirits prevented my speaking. I dared not ask, ‘How came Henrietta here?—What has she suffered?—In whose power is she now?’

“My host, however, entered at once into my meaning. ‘Be more calm,’ said he; ‘I know all the terrors that possess you; for I also have loved, and have been wretched, more I trust than you

ever will be. You have unexpectedly found her whom you sought; but in a moment she may be torn from you for ever!—You must know, from what has just passed, that this place is not secure. Do not, therefore, let us waste the time in wondering or lamenting. Even while we speak, danger may be impending which would overwhelm us all.' He spoke this in a low and slow manner, listened at intervals, and extinguished his lamp. 'Speak very low,' said he, 'or rather retire for the moment without speaking. I will go to Henrietta, and appease the fear she must be in.' He arose, and left me in darkness, while those doubts and suspicions returned which I had been a moment before ashamed of having felt. I dared not, however, move; for not my life only, but that of a being infinitely dearer to me seemed to be in the hands of him, into whose power chance had so unaccountably thrown us both. What could he  
be?

be? By what strange chance or choice did he live in such a place, where he must either be in perpetual apprehension from the revolted Negroes and insurgent Maroons, or in league with them? Surely, notwithstanding the mild candour of his appearance and his apparent humanity, this mysterious being must be a criminal, who shelters himself from justice by means of the hostile savages among whom he dwells! Henrietta! her name seemed familiar to him—He acknowledged that her story was known to him—He could have heard it only from herself—She must then have been some time with him!—I relate these questions with more precision than I at that time made them. They passed confusedly through my mind, and I now determined to interrupt the conference which the stranger was holding with Henrietta—now trembled at my own rashness, and said, I *may* destroy her by it; but if she is already lost to



me, I cannot retrieve my own destiny. It is so impossible to convey to another the sensations which at that moment agitated my heart, that I will not attempt it. They were vague, tumultuous, confused, and painful beyond any that I had hitherto experienced.

“ Breathless, undecided how to act, and almost doubting my senses, I listened, and, trembling, approached the entrance to the inward cavern. I fancied I heard the sobs and deep sighs of Henrietta. It was enough ; all my attempts at prudence and patience were forgotten ; and once more I penetrated the recess, and saw, for there was now a light, the supposed hermit kneeling beside the mistress of my heart, apparently expostulating with her. She sat on her mattress weeping, and, as it seemed, expostulating also. The noise I made, however, on entering, made them both look towards the door. The stranger continued to hold one hand, while Henrietta, extend-

extending the other towards me, faintly uttered my name. Perhaps no human being was ever shaken by a more extraordinary variety of violent emotions than at that moment assailed me. Henrietta, however, appeared to be agitated by other passions than those with which I was distracted. Eagerness to clear up a circumstance which she saw I misunderstood, fear of the consequences of my headlong impetuosity, and doubts of her own power of explanation, combined to deprive her of the little strength she had left. Perhaps some recollection of the coolness there was on my part when we last parted, might add to her uneasiness and embarrassment. ‘Denbigh!’ said she in a faint voice, ‘Denbigh! I beseech you to hear me, to hear this our good friend, who has been in the hands of Providence the means of saving me from the most terrible evils. Denbigh, my best, my first friend! help me to thank him. I am poor, even in

thanks.' By this time the hermit had arisen, and said 'Henrietta! if Mr. Denbigh will command himself and hear reason, I shall be able to explain to his satisfaction all that now appears extraordinary. If he will *not*—but I do not suppose it'——I own, that almost for the first time in my life I was over-awed by a consciousness of superior reason and rectitude. My breath was oppressed; my head became confused, from the contrariety of emotions that assailed me.

"My benevolent friend, into whose bosom I doubted whether I ought not to have plunged a poniard, took advantage of my indecision. 'It is no time,' said he, 'now for explanation: your life, and, what I have no doubt is dearer to you, the life and honour of Henrietta, saved once almost by miracle, depend on our instant resolution. I dare not let either of you remain here two hours longer. Let it not be said, that a delicate woman can, in a case of necessity,  
exert

exert the virtues of fortitude and patience, to which you, Denbigh, are unequal: but I persuade myself that you will, each for the sake of the other, forget every thing but the necessity of prompt resolution and execution.’— ‘What must I do?’ cried Henrietta, making an effort to rise: ‘what is there I will not try to do, when you my benefactor direct me?’

“ ‘We must hasten from hence,’ said the recluse, ‘instantly. I have now for three days baffled the suspicions which I think I plainly perceive are entertained by the Maroons and their adherents, as to my having an inmate here. It was to obviate those suspicions that I to-night accompanied them nearly to the foot of the mountains. They are gone on an expedition in which it is highly probable they may be successful. It is equally probable that, intoxicated with spirits, and rendered careless of every consideration by success, they may

H 6

return,

return, and, even if their doubts are not renewed, demand of me refreshment and repose. I can neither evade nor deny their request, and a discovery must inevitably ensue.'

" ' Let us go,' cried Henrietta, exerting as it seemed all her strength. ' Let us not, I implore you, lose a moment.' She arose and approached me. ' Denbigh !' said she, ' is it really Denbigh I see, or a phantom sent to mock my misery ? Will you then abandon me ?'— ' Never,' answered I, ' though I believe myself every way the most wretched of human beings !'— ' Is this a time,' exclaimed our host with some degree of indignation, ' to indulge lamentation, or torment oneself with conjectures ? While you hesitate, Sir, we are lost ! I say *we* ; because my own safety is hazarded by the share I have had in rescuing this dear unhappy girl from the most hideous evils. Yet I name not that as a motive to hasten you, for I set not my life at the value

value of a straw. I seem again to be thrown among my species, only to be convinced anew of their worthlessness.' — 'Well, Sir,' interrupted I, 'what am I to do? I no more wish to waste time in needless words than you do.' Henrietta was now wrapped in a sort of capot, and prepared to go. Our host put away every vestige of any one having been with him in his hermitage; lit a candle in a dark lantern; and having insisted on our swallowing each a glass of rum, he took Henrietta's arm within his, and, bidding her be of good courage, desired me to follow him, and we left the hermitage.

"Instead of taking the most obvious of the narrow paths that led from it, he struck into one hardly perceptible, which went almost perpendicularly down the woody declivity, where the trunks of pimento and mahogany trees were not so thick as their boughs were shadowy  
and

and extensive. We walked in profound silence, each occasionally assisting Henrietta, who could only slowly make her way along so steep and rugged a path; I was near our conductor, and plainly perceived that he was extremely agitated, and could hardly conceal his apprehension; when Henrietta suddenly uttered a faint shriek, and clung to us both with every mark of extreme terror. It was the scintillation of the fire-flies that alarmed her, as they now glittered and were now lost among the trees; and though she had seen them before, they seemed to her terrified imagination to be the lights of her pursuers. Our march was fatiguing and tedious. I saw Henrietta ready to sink; and though we between us rather carried than led her, I doubted whether it would be possible for her to proceed. Sometimes we were compelled to let her rest for some moments, each of us supporting her; and each appeared to avoid speaking to the other, yet to be equally interested

interested in her safety, and to attend with equal solicitude to her faintly whispered answers to our anxious inquiries. In one of these pauses we heard the Gombay fullenly and flow in single measured strokes, and apparently not very far off. The moment was terrible ; our conductor tremblingly urged us to hasten on, and fear again conquered the sense of fatigue in my unfortunate Henrietta.

“ I would have inquired whither our mysterious guide was conducting us? but as I had no power to change whatever resolution he had taken, I might have done harm, where to do good was beyond my power. Again we resumed our march ; the way became rather easier ; and our friend endeavoured to raise the failing courage of poor Henrietta, by assuring her the greatest difficulty was conquered, and that we were not far from a place of safety.

“ Day,



“Day, however, broke in all its splendour, just as we quitted the thickest shade of the trees, and emerged into a valley, lovely as fabled paradise. Shadocks, limes, and wild oranges, perfumed the air, and the yellow star-like blossoms of the graceful tamarind enriched the summits of its long flexible boughs. Wretchedness like mine has no eye for beauty. I saw the Eden around me illuminated by the bright rays of morning only with dread, lest the rapid stream that hurried through this recess, and the wild fruits with which it abounded, should have tempted those to frequent it whom it must be death to us to meet.

“But our conductor seemed not to feel the same apprehensions. ‘It is now,’ said he, ‘that my fears abate; the people we have reason to dread are probably retired to their fastnesses in the caverns of the forest, and I trust we shall  
escape

escape them. While we were yet among the woods I extremely apprehended meeting either parties of them, or single stragglers silently creeping along these obscure paths to reach their principal rendezvous in the mountains. Come then, my friends, within a mile is a place of security.' Henrietta thus encouraged renewed her exertions, and after walking another hour we approached a small neat house, situated in the midst of a cotton plantation. Our conductor bade us wait a moment without; he returned almost immediately, and introduced us to a middle-aged decent-looking woman, who seemed by her manner to be a dependent on our strange acquaintance. He recommended Henrietta to her immediate care; she was indeed so overcome by fatigue and fear, that she could not much longer have supported herself. She consented therefore, at our joint entreaties, to withdraw. When she was gone, my yet nameless companion,

companion, whom I could hardly now consider otherwise than my friend, said, 'The gentlewoman of this house is the widow of one of my overseers. She has some obligations to me; she is grateful; and if the few negroes about her are faithful, or, if they are otherwise, but can be kept in ignorance of Henrietta being in the house, her perils, and I trust yours, will be at an end.'

"This speech, by making me suppose the stranger was himself a planter of the island, redoubled my astonishment at all I had observed. He guessed at my thoughts: 'I see,' said he, 'that I excite your curiosity; this is not a place nor a time to gratify it. It is necessary for me to return as expeditiously as I can to my hermitage: for you, repose, and some attention to your wounds, are, I am persuaded, still more necessary. But you will not, I imagine, thank me for my care, if a proposal to separate you from Henrietta be annexed to it.'

"I inter-

“ I interrupted him. ‘ No, Sir, I will not quit the spot where she is, let the consequence be what it may. All the wretchedness we have suffered has been owing to our separation. Disgraced, undone, as perhaps she is, I will now stay near her till——My fate at least will soon be decided, after hers is known.’ The recluse then left me with an air of compassion; he said he would give directions for my accommodation, and that I should see him again in a few days.

“ The good woman of the house soon came to me herself, and brought with her a surgeon who usually attended her people. He applied remedies to my wounds, which were by this time in a very uneasy state, though I had for the last few hours been quite unconscious of them. He recommended quiet; and I suffered myself to be led to a small upper room, where I consented to attempt taking some repose, on the assurance that Henrietta was much recovered,

vered, and, being convinced of her present safety and of mine, that she had fallen into a profound sleep. I now understood that it would be advisable to conceal my being in the house from every one but an old mulatto woman, on whom my hostess could depend, and who was to bring me food. I endeavoured then to calm my over wearied spirits; but it was impossible. Every circumstance, from my first encounter with the Maroons to my present situation, appeared like the dream of a fevered imagination. If fatigue overcame the tumult of my spirits, the respite was only momentary. I started from this transient forgetfulness, and my bewildered senses awake only to scenes of horror, represented Henrietta in new perils, and I was flying to rescue her or perish in the attempt. Not, however, to play the egotist, and dwell too long on my own feelings and sufferings, I hasten to the fortunate period when my friend

friend and protector re-appeared. I had been persuaded not to see Henrietta, but not till I was satisfied of her safety by a note written in her own hand, in which she conjured me to follow implicitly the directions of our host of the hermitage ; ‘ who has,’ said she, ‘ been under Providence the means of saving your Henrietta from the most deplorable evils, and who is still I am convinced occupied in securing our safety.’

“ Henrietta did not then tell me that her fears of her father returned the moment others of a yet more hideous description subsided. From both the one and the other, however, she was in a great degree relieved by the appearance of a strong military escort from St. Jago de la Vega ; the commanding officer of which presented to each us of a few words written by our excellent friend, in which he informed us he had sent a carriage for our conveyance to the protection of the Governor, and such a  
force

force as would preclude the hazards that might otherwise have made our journey unsafe or uneasy. Once more I mistrusted my senses when I found myself feated by the fide of Henrietta. Yet in her altered countenance and tremulous tones there was but too much evidence of the reality of her sufferings; and the cruel fears of the past that had so distracted me, now recurred in despite of my reason; nor, whatever effort I made, was I able to conceal from the object of them, the variety of apprehensions that tormented me. But when Henrietta understood me she could only say, ‘Denbigh! I have suffered a great deal; more perhaps, yes, surely more, than even my folly and my mistrust of you deserved. But if I live, it will be to prove to you the sincerity of my repentance: and Denbigh surely will not suppose she could wish to live, if the person of his poor Henrietta was become an object of abhorrence to him. Nor

would she have survived even till now the disgrace which *might* have befallen her.' Relieved by this declaration, and shocked to have given rise to such oppressive and distressing feelings as I saw agitated the bosom of my beloved girl, I commanded myself during the rest of our journey, and we arrived in safety at the seat of government. Henrietta was received into the house of a gentleman, to whose wife our mysterious friend had recommended her; and one of my own former acquaintance waited our arrival, to conduct me to apartments he had prepared for me in his own house.

"My eagerness for information could now no longer be restrained. I found that one of Mr. Maynard's plantations had been destroyed by the Maroons, (to whom he was particularly obnoxious,) joined by some of his own runaway-negroes; that, urged to more than his usual extravagance of passion by this outrage, he had indulged his vindictive  
temper



temper in great and unjustifiable severities towards the people upon all his estates; severities which served only to irritate the minds even of those who had till then most faithfully adhered to him. At length the insurrection suddenly spread to the northern plantation, whither Mr. Maynard was returning to celebrate the compulsory marriage of his daughter. He heard what had happened, some miles before he approached it, and hastened to a small encampment of British troops which had been stationed at the foot of the mountains, waiting a reinforcement before they made a general attack on the strong holds of the enemy. Having prevailed on the commanding officer of this detachment to accompany him with his soldiers, they approached the plantation, where a scene of devastation and horror awaited them. The Maroons, who had not yet retired, met them undauntedly, and repulsed them with considerable loss. Mr. Maynard

His intended son-in-law waiting no longer fled back with the intelligence. The military, after considerable loss, returned to their camp; and of the fate of Henrietta as nothing was known certainly, the most terrible conjectures were formed; and she had been reckoned among the most lamented victims of this disastrous warfare, till intelligence had been received of her being at the widow's house, and an escort demanded to conduct her from thence in safety.

"I found that he who informed me of these particulars knew no more. He was neither acquainted with the circumstances of Henrietta's danger, nor by whose means she had escaped it. And when I reflected that she must have been two or three days in the power of the enraged and unrestrained savages, from whom the mountain recluse had, I knew not how, rescued her, my horrible apprehensions returned, and it was with difficulty I concealed from the friend

with whom I was converſing, the thoughts that ſhook me with dread.

“ The following day, however, I received a note from my myſterious friend, deſiring to ſee me at a place he named not far from the town. ‘ I cannot,’ ſaid he in this ſhort letter, ‘ mingle in ſociety without ſo much pain, that I know you will not hesitate to meet me here, unleſs the ſtate of your health ſhould make it inconvenient to you.’ I was too deſirous of ſeeing him to ſuffer any perſonal conſiderations to prevent me. I found the recluſe in a ſmall habitation near a pen, where the people appeared to treat him with great reſpect. His aſpect was calm and benign : I imagined that his looks were thoſe of compaſſion, and that he was conſidering how to palliate the blow I ſhould receive when the whole of poor Henrietta’s diſaſtrous ſtory ſhould be known to me. Determined to attempt bearing my miſeries like a man, I ſtifled the anguish of my heart,  
and

and endeavoured to oppose with all my fortitude the effect of the certainty of evils worse even than death. I observed a profound silence. My singular acquaintance thus began :

“ ‘ I have perceived, ever since your interview with Henrietta, (which I wished, had it been possible, to avert, till I could have prepared you for it,) that you have considered me as a strange and equivocal being, whose intentions in regard to you both were suspicious. She knows nothing more of me than that I am her friend, and have fortunately proved her deliverer from a situation of extreme peril. Had she been merely what I, when I first saw her, believed, an unhappy young woman, I should not with less zeal have endeavoured to serve and protect her ; but judge, Mr. Denbigh, of the additional pleasure I felt, when I found I had from such distresses as had environed Henrietta

I 2

rescued

rescued my niece, and almost the only relation I have in the world.'

"I expressed astonishment and satisfaction. My friend thus proceeded :

" ' My history is strange. To the young, to the unexperienced, it will appear almost incredible. I will briefly relate it ; because, though I have subdued the first and most acute feelings that once accompanied retrospection, I am not yet enough master of myself to enter without pain into the history of my hopes, my disappointments, and the errors that were the consequence of having too much indulged the one, and of being too easily depressed by the other.

" ' Though I was a younger brother, I inherited a fortune that many elder brothers might have coveted. I was, like other children of fortune from the colonies, sent to England for what is called education, at so early an age that I recollect little of my childhood; except  
that,

that, from my having two young negroes to wait on my caprices, and to enact my horses, my dogs, or any thing else I required, to indulge my indolence, and submit to my ill-humour, I really imagined myself to be a creature of a superior order, whom it was the business of all other creatures to venerate and to obey. My reception at the merchant's to whom I was (with my elder brother, sundry hogsheds of sugar, bags of cotton, and planks of mahogany) consigned, was such as made me suspect I was not a person of such immense importance in the great city of London, as I had fancied myself on the plantations of my father in Jamaica. I was equipped with English habiliments; a sum which I thought a very pitiful one put into my pocket, and forthwith dispatched with my brother, under the care of one of my guardian's clerks, to Harrow School. As I could hardly read English, it was utterly impossible I could

learn the rudiments of Latin; as I could not write my own name, it was still more impossible that I could execute the tasks, simple as they were, that were assigned to me. But as my father was a rich Jamaica planter, there was no doubt of my bills being paid, however extravagant; and my deficiencies were therefore overlooked, while I was thrust on from form to form; sometimes flogged, and sometimes paying other boys to do my task, and save me from flogging. Out of school, my life was far enough from being pleasant. My elder brother, who was heir to a fortune thrice as large as that which in right of my mother (whose name I was to take,) was, on coming of age, to belong to me, had been used to exercise the caprices of a very bad temper on half a dozen African boys and girls. He now found no one willing to submit to any whim which he chose to entertain: but, if he was impertinent he was *ridiculed*, and if  
 he

he was insolent he was *beat*. Nay, so far was he from being able to command, that he was compelled to obey; and, from being a tyrant, found himself reduced to be himself a slave: for, by dint of thumps and blows from boys so much bigger than himself that resistance would have been in vain, he, who had from his earliest recollection been so triumphantly master of every one about him, was now under the hard necessity of becoming *shag*, *fag*, *skip*, or whatever the boys in the higher forms chose to insist upon. This, however bad it was for him, was a great deal worse for me; for, in proportion as his chagrin increased, so did his desire to revenge himself upon somebody else; and unhappily no other person was disposed to bear it, and certainly not one was compelled to bear it, but me. On me therefore fell the weight of his displeasure; and as he was a great deal bigger, and three years older than I was, I assure you my personal suffer-



ings were not inconsiderable. At length my frequent black eyes, bruises which prevented my writing or even going into school, and violent bleeding at the nose, excited inquiry; and as I had no inclination to disguise the truth, and other boys were willing enough to tell it, for they all detested my brother, I was at the recommendation of the master removed to another school; but to this circumstance (for we are the creatures of accident) I perhaps owe that abhorrence of tyranny and injustice which I have invariably felt through the rest of my life.

“ My condition was ameliorated by my removal, and no longer fearing for my *life*, I began to find that I had a *soul*; at least that I had feelings and affections worthy of aspiring to rank above the ferocious animals to whom I had hitherto been subjected. I was a tall lad of almost eighteen, and had been about four years at a private school, when orders  
came

came from my father to send me to Cambridge. Thither therefore I went, extremely to my own satisfaction, yet but little to my classical improvement; for the disadvantages under which I had begun to learn, always adhered to me in some degree, and impeded my progress. My brother was at Oxford; but that we might never meet, and our enmity or rather his tyranny be renewed, I did not go at the vacation to my guardian's, but was received at his desire by a sister of his, a widow of moderate fortune, who, besides a son, who was one of my friends at Cambridge, had three daughters. The arrangement was natural enough, circumstanced as I was, but on their parts it was not altogether without design.

“ The three young ladies were all pretty. The youngest, who was not above fifteen, I thought eminently beautiful. Simple, and soft in her manners, very fair, very blooming; well made, though

not tall ; with fine flaxen hair waving luxuriantly over her face ; beautiful teeth, and lips of coral : these were charms more than enough to fascinate such a boy as I was, who had my head full of romance, and a heart which found itself disposed to love any human creature who would invite its confidence and return its affection. As my pecuniary value was well understood, I met with no discouragement ; but after my affections were not only supposed to be irrevocably, but really were madly fixed on Miss Fanny, I was told by her mama, that our acquaintance must be suspended till my father was written to, and his consent obtained to our union. I was not of an age or of a disposition to hear reason, had reason been presented to me. I knew that on my majority, to which I wanted hardly three years, I should be independent, and possess an ample fortune, and already I determined to be free. It was not difficult for me

to

to obtain present money, as my prospects of fortune were generally known. I had no great difficulty in prevailing on my lovely Fanny to elope with me. We were married at Gretna Green, and returned to her mother, where I had not much doubt of the pardon that awaited us.

“ The year of our union was undoubtedly the happiest of my life. I had a son born within that time, whom I considered with a degree of infantine fondness ; and before the intelligence of my marriage could reach Jamaica, my father died : so that I not only escaped any remonstrance, but found myself entitled to a very considerable addition to my fortune. We resided at one of the pleasantest villages in the neighbourhood of London. Fanny, though persuaded by her mother that she was unable from her extreme youth and delicacy to suckle her infant, was yet a most tender and attentive mother, and passed almost all

her time in the nursery, where her cares and pleasures were increased by the birth of a daughter. My felicity was too perfect to last.

“ One of my wife’s sisters was about this time married to a very opulent merchant in the city. Successful commerce had long since set him above the necessity of residing near the spot where it was carried on, and his bride became the mistress of a most splendid house in one of the fashionable streets near St. James’s. The mother, a very vain and weak woman, whose moderate circumstances had hitherto restrained her expences, now indulged herself in every kind of dissipation, and encouraged it in her daughters. It was not therefore surprising that the infection reached my wife, who was yet hardly eighteen, and that before such examples the soberer habits of domestic life gave way. She was often invited to stay several nights together in town, either with her mother

or her sister, that she might enjoy the amusements of London, which till now she had hardly ever been present at: they had therefore all the fascination of novelty; and Fanny soon discovered, that the village where we resided, and where her greatest satisfaction had hitherto been found in her children and her garden, was terribly inconvenient, dull, and even vulgar, since no persons of fashion ever lived so near London. Her mother supported her in her attempts to persuade me to quit it, and to take a very elegant house, which happened at that period to be vacant near St. James's. They represented to me, that with my fortune the world would reflect upon me if I did not live as other people did in a certain style: and the elder lady, forgetting how lately she had rejoiced at so well disposing of a young woman whose beauty was her only portion, told me, with some asperity, that *her* daughter was not to be considered as  
 one

one who was to be a mere domestic animal ; that she was calculated to shine in the *genteel* circles ; and it was a matter of surprise to all my friends, but still more to hers, that I had never appeared to feel the pride which must surely be mine, when so fine a creature as my Fanny could be exhibited as my wife.

“ When first this style of talking was adopted, it was in hints and innuendoes. The good lady my mother-in-law rather talked at me than to me ; and the rest of the family conveyed their sentiments still more in the *mezza voce*. By degrees, however, as I appeared determined not to understand them, they spoke plainer, and returned so unremittingly to the charge, that my patience, if not my resolution, began to be shaken. Yet I could have resisted all these importunities had I not seen the cruel effect the pernicious doctrines they enforced had on my wife ; that cheerfulness and even infantine gaiety which used to charm

charm me, especially when I saw her playfulness and spirit dedicated to the health and amusement of my children, was now quite lost, and instead of it I was repulsed by silence, fullness, and tears. Accustomed to domestic life at a period when most young men yield to the wildest excesses, I felt the whole system of rational happiness sinking for ever. I saw my lovely little ones neglected, and their mother estranged from them and from me. I might certainly have continued to live where I did, and have compelled my wife to remain with me; but I could not recall that genuine and unadulterated taste for the duties of a wife and a mother, which had so barbarously been destroyed by those who ought to have honoured and cherished it. I feared I must thenceforth be miserable myself: but I could not determine to see my Fanny avowedly so, when she had been taught to think, however falsely, that it was in my power to make



make her happy. There was besides a hope that, satiated with what she now supposed pleasures, and finding the empty adulation of a crowd but a poor substitute for the consciousness of doing right, for the delights of maternal love, and the affection of a husband who adored her, she would soon return disgusted by the fallacy of her new pursuit, and be restored to herself and to me.

“ I consented therefore, alas! with what foreboding reluctance, to the plan so assiduously recommended. My family removed to a splendid house in one of the most fashionable streets in the most fashionable part of London. My servants were more numerous, more superbly clad, and more expensively supported and paid. I had three carriages, instead of a coach and garden chair, in which I used to drive my wife about in the green and pleasant lanes around our former residence; and my house, most magnificently furnished, under the immediate

mediate direction of my mother-in-law, was soon so constantly filled with company, that I was no longer at home in it; and had it not been that I had insisted on having one of the best bed-chambers converted into a nursery, and reserved one of the back parlours for a library, I should not have had a room in it where I could have found even the shadow of the pleasure and the repose I had lost. My wife was never at home unless on those days when she saw company, or had dining parties, at which I was expected to sit at the bottom of the table, to entertain men with whom I had no feelings or sentiments in common. Officers of the guards, with an infinity of vanity and vice, but a 'plentiful lack of wit;' fine feathered and helmeted heroes of the cavalry, (in which department of the army my wife had a brother,) who, out of the mere routine of their profession, had fewer ideas than I had ever believed any of

God's

God's creatures could be furnished with; and men of yet another description, members of parliament, who had obtained seats, every body wondered how, for purposes that nobody could be ignorant of—their associates, whose whole fortunes consisted in their birth, their fashionable manners, and their skill at play. A considerable number of very beautiful women were of these assemblies. Fanny had very early discovered that her face and form might fearlessly challenge every comparison, and she appeared to delight in collecting around her those who, when she was not present, were looked upon as the first in beauty and elegance.

“ I now never met her but fatigued with the vigils of the preceding night, or in haste lest she should miss some delightful party on that which was approaching. Our meals, our chamber, were no longer in common. Her mother, her sisters, or her brother, who was  
so

so good, uninvited by me, whenever he was in London, to make my house his home, were, one or other of them, always with her, even at those hours that the most dissipated give to domestic society. I attempted to check all this by persuasion. I was not listened to. I represented how inadequate my fortune, affluent as it was, must prove to such a scale of expence as our present establishment was extended to. I was reproached with parsimony. I besought the mother of this young and thoughtless victim of vanity to consider to what she was dooming her innocent grandchildren; but she was so weak, that my remonstrances produced anger and resentment instead of conviction and reform. The wild career of folly was continued, till the arrival of summer exchanged the scene on which it was acted; and the still patient and enduring husband was only the first of her suite, with whom 'the beautiful Mrs. Maynard' appeared

appeared at a summer resort, where health is the pretence for collecting numbers who continue with very little variation the same life they have led in London during the winter.

“It may appear strange that a man of my then age, for you recollect how young I married, since which scarce four years had passed, should not have been drawn into the vortex, while he tried to snatch from it his murdered happiness. But so cruelly had the fatal change in my wife’s temper and manners lacerated my heart, that I felt a degree of abhorrence toward every one who had contributed to it; and though I sometimes constrained myself to appear at my table with calmness, my resolution carried me no farther; while I have more than once accidentally caught from the men with whom that table was surrounded, half and bye words uttered to each other, which I doubted not were terms of ridicule. I was represented as  
morose,’

morose, covetous, jealous, and weak; and I perceived that, more and more estranged from her duty and from me, my wife considered me rather as her jailor than her husband. My sister, the same whom you knew, and to whom Henrietta owes her education, at that time returned from the Continent, where her health and her inclination often induced her to reside for two or three years. She was a woman of sense and spirit, and could not imagine how it was that I possessed so little of either, as to submit to the discreditable if not dishonourable conduct of a woman, who was she thought bound to shew me both gratitude and affection. 'She undertook to talk to her; but the effect of her remonstrance was as I foresaw it would be. My wife heard her with impatience, and answered her with asperity. The consequence was, that my sister renounced me and my house for ever; and I was thus deprived of the only

friend I had left, to whom I could speak of the misery of my heart. Had I not still loved my unhappy Fanny, and had not my children been most dear to me, I could have thrown her off for ever, though I believed her personal fidelity was yet without a stain. But whenever I thought of separating the mother from the children, though she seemed to have forgotten she was their mother, I trembled lest I should be destroying for ever the fabric of happiness with which I had so delighted my eyes and flattered my imagination, and which I fondly hoped was yet to be repaired. For a little while longer, therefore, I resisted the sharp reproaches and exhortations of my sister; who, though she no longer saw, often wrote to me, I checked the natural impetuosity of my temper, which, however patient it may hitherto have appeared to you, is by no means unlike that disposition usually and with justice attributed to West Indians; and I tried once

more

more what effect the friendly yet forcible remonstrance of the father and the husband would have on a heart which, beating in so lovely a bosom, I could not, I would not, yet believe was become callous to the sacred claims of nature towards my infants, and of tenderness and gratitude towards their father.

“ It is useless now to conjecture whether the repetition of this experiment would have succeeded ; for just at that time an event took place which considerably changed the ground on which it was made. The husband of that sister of my wife’s, since whose apparently affluent marriage my scheme of felicity had been destroyed, suddenly became insolvent. The superstructure of his dazzling fortune, raised on a frail and faithless foundation, sunk at once. To avoid prolixity, suffice it to say, that his schemes, which perhaps only himself understood, were calculated either to raise him to princely prosperity, or plunge  
him



him into the lowest abyss of ruin ; while his giddy thoughtless wife, who never dreamed that she was sporting over a smooth and glittering surface, which a breath might dissolve beneath her, was so suddenly struck with the cruel reverse, that she fell into a state of mind more deplorable than even phrensy itself. Within a few days her husband was in prison ; and her children, whom she had sent at a very early age to school, that she might avoid the trouble of taking care of them at home, were conducted by the respective masters and governesses back to a house of which the Sheriff's officers were now in possession ; and which all the servants had forsaken, each taking the first thing of value they could appropriate, as the only chance they had of obtaining any remuneration for their services. In this terrible exigence it was to me that the unhappy family turned their eyes for succour. My wife, in all the anguish of repentance, humbled

bled herself at my feet. Her mother who had lately been supported in affluence very much above her former condition of life by her now undone son-in-law, sunk, like other feeble minds, under this shock to her vanity and ambition; while the unhappy man himself conjured me from his prison to shelter his unhappy children, and to visit though he could not ask me to relieve him.

“ Even the bitterest enemy supplicating for mercy can disarm a generous mind of every desire of vengeance. The unfortunate people who thus threw themselves on my compassion, I had long been accustomed to consider as those who had occasioned all my unhappiness; but I now saw them rendered wretched themselves by the conduct that had occasioned my wretchedness; they had been even more their own enemies than mine. I silently forgave their errors, and actively engaged in the business of relieving their misfortunes.

Notwithstanding the expences which my wife's late conduct had brought upon me, my fortune had rather increased than diminished ; for, though I had for some years lived beyond my income, the money thus sunk had been very lately more than replaced by the legacy of a brother of my mother, who, dying in this island, where he had conceived an unconquerable aversion from my elder brother, left me not only an estate as large as that I before possessed, but a considerable sum of money in the English funds, with plate, jewels, and other personals to a great amount. I thought therefore I could, without injury to my two children, engage in an undertaking which I believed would not only be in itself meritorious, but, by restoring me to the affection of my still adored Fanny, be the means of giving me back the happiness I had lost. I need not enter into the particulars of my proceedings for this purpose. In about

two months Mr. Halwyn was released from his confinement. A composition was made with his creditors. He was permitted, as I was become his guarantee, to pursue those branches of commerce in which he had ventured too far, but which might now by perseverance repay the hazard and even the loss he had incurred. I inherited from my uncle an house and well-conditioned estate in Dorsetshire. Thither I now proposed to retire with my family, as well as *that* I had taken under my protection. There was ample room for both, and the mother and sister of my wife, the latter of whom was now in a state that might be called a slow convalescence from melancholy madness, the husband of that sister, and her children, were assembled. Though this increase of my establishment destroyed all my hopes of domestic tranquillity which I had fondly flattered myself I should regain, if my wife could resolve to live for me and her children, and

once more taste the simple delights of nature, I submitted without a murmur to postpone a plan of life still dear to my imagination, believing it was only postponed; and that when the affairs of her brother-in-law were settled, which my purse and my time were incessantly occupied to complete—his family being re-established in *their* home, my friendship towards them would so operate on my wife, that I should have nothing to wish in my own.

“ There was a great number of gentlemen’s families in the neighbourhood, particularly of West Indians, who of course thought such an accession to their society should be assiduously cultivated; but my wife, who now appeared to have no pleasure but mine, left it wholly to me either to encourage or decline their advances. I candidly told them, my purpose was to live very much retired, but yet not wholly to avoid an intercourse of occasional civility. Mrs. Hal-

wyn was the only one of the family who, when these parties assembled at my house, never appeared. Mortified pride is oftener than is generally believed the source of mental derangement; and as no human being had ever been more ostentatiously elevated with her situation during the short course of her prosperity, so none had ever felt more poignantly the reverse in fortune. Her vain and weak mind could not bear the superiority of that man who had rescued her and her family from destruction; and I believe, in the morbid malignity of her spirit, she hated me more for my kindness than she would have done had I left them all to their destiny. Confined, however, to her own apartments, I seldom saw her; her husband too was now very frequently absent on his affairs, of which I received from time to time the most flattering accounts; and as to the old lady my mother-in-law, she had in a great degree regained her spirits. She was once more

considered as a person of consequence ; her advice was asked, her opinions attended to, and she not unfrequently enjoyed the delights of a rubber or a pool with some other dowagers of the neighbourhood, and the rector of the parish. My whole household therefore were apparently content through the winter months, which I had feared would prove rather a severe trial to those who had so lately lived among the most dissipated scenes of the metropolis. My wife, if not gay, was tranquil, and the gratitude she seemed to feel for what I had done for her family, had I hoped and believed awakened all her former affection. A calamity, however, of another description than those I had hitherto suffered under overtook me. My lovely little girl, now in her seventh year, became ill of a fever. She recovered from the acute disease, but fell into a decline. I hurried with her and her mother to the West of England ;  
and

and from thence to those parts of Wales, celebrated for the restoration of consumptive patients; but my anxiety, my endeavours, my sleepless nights and days of stifled agony—all were vain. My little angel expired in my arms; and detesting my existence after a misfortune which I believed it impossible to survive, I felt as if whoever did not lament her as I did injured me. Her mother was affected, but I thought not affected enough by an incident which destroyed the most flattering object of those visions of future delight which I had still indulged. Mrs. Maynard did certainly, however, appear deeply dejected; and when we returned together to my Dorsetshire house, her mother, who had remained there, pretended to dread the consequences of her sorrow, reproached me for encouraging it; and hesitated not to say, that, instead of suffering her to dwell on this useless regret, and destroy herself for the loss of *such a child* (that I



remembered was her expression), I ought to promote her going into company, and use every means that my fortune put in my power to recover the spirits and preserve the beauty of my wife; a subject on which the old lady always dwelt with particular complacency. I affected not to understand, though I could not be ignorant what this meant. It was to pave the way for a proposal of going to Bath, for which the autumnal season was now approaching. I determined to be miserable at home; and the good lady, who could not yet dispense with, though she could forget my services, was obliged to submit.

“Just at this point of time Mr. Halwyn returned in great spirits from a long residence in London and other places where his business lay. He had recovered, he told us, very capital sums of money, which he had considered as desperate. His assignees were con-  
vinced

vinced that, by their giving him a little more time, he should not only be able to pay to all his creditors the utmost of their demands, but be restored to an high degree of affluence. I was glad of his good fortune, but my heart still suffering the pain of paternal regret, was incapable of any pleasure, and I listened (though attentively) coldly to the minute account he seemed fond of giving me of the various means by which his affairs were to be retrieved. His other auditors were less torpid, and the elderly lady in particular was never weary of hearing the praises of his brother—a young man whom he had taken into a share of his business in the height of his prosperous fortune, and who, on the first apprehension of its decline, had gone to America, to Lisbon, Barcelona, and afterwards to France, in hopes of saving the house by collecting many of its debts before its distresses were known. The activity and spirit, the knowledge

and perseverance of this young adventurer were the theme of Mr. Halwyn's panegyric; yet from time to time he artfully introduced his obligations to me, without whose generous assistance, he said, all his brother's exertions and his own would have been fruitless. This young man was soon to go again to the Continent, to put the finishing hand to arrangements so fortunately begun. I found it was expected of me to invite him down on a visit to his brother, by whose account any one would have imagined that he equalled at least 'the admirable Crichton.' I was ill disposed for any additional society; but, unwilling to appear unaccommodating and morose, and not to do every thing where I had done so much, the invitation was given, and my accomplished visitor arrived.

“ His person was undoubtedly a very fine one; his manners such as evinced how much an active mind may acquire  
by

by visiting different countries. The elder brother, with great affectation of knowledge and taste, was, it was easy to see, a mere mercantile speculator; but Mr. Frederic Holwyn had so much of the man of fashion, that it was hard to conceive he had been brought up amid the dull routine of a counting-house. He seemed to be deeply impressed with a sense of the obligations his brother owed to me; while to the ladies of the family, his politeness, the easy gaiety of his conversation, could not fail to recommend him. He was occasionally with us for about six weeks. At the end of that time I consented to accompany him and his brother to London for the purpose of farther settling the affairs of the latter, who was now able to repay some part of the advance I had made for him; and, that I might complete the good work I had begun, I met the parties who expected my receipt for this money, (about four thousand pounds,) prepared with a

deed by which I presented this sum to the wife and children of my creditor, on condition of its being settled to them ; and I gave him at the same time a full discharge for the rest. I will not repeat the acknowledgements made by Mr. Halwyn, nor the praises I received from the persons interested who were present. It was not to obtain those eulogiums I had acted. I observed something singular, however, in the manner of Frederic Halwyn ; who, contrary to his usual manner, was confused and disconcerted, and hastened from the place of meeting before the business was entirely finished, on pretence of an engagement with a military friend, who was on the point of embarking for India. I had some affairs relative to my Jamaica property to settle, which kept me three days in town. I then set out for Dorsetshire, and was sensible of the only satisfaction I had felt since I lost my daughter, when I anticipated the pleasure my wife would

feel in hearing what I had done for her sister and her sister's children. I had made the journey on horseback, attended by one servant. It was late in the evening when I approached my house, which was situated on high ground, and I looked for the lights, which, as it was now the month of July, were almost always to be seen from the bow window of a music room, where my Fanny usually passed the evenings; but no light appeared either there or from any other part of the house. As my return was expected, though I had not named the exact day, I was rather surprised that my wife should be out, which, however, I concluded, was the case, and I knew it was not always easy for her to resist the importunity of her mother when she was bent on a rubber. It was no small part of the satisfaction in which I indulged myself, to think, that in consequence of the arrangements to which I had so largely contributed, I should  
become

become master of my own house, which I never felt myself to be while this lady made it her residence. I was now at the gate which opened into the court-yard of my house. A man was standing there who I soon saw was an old coachman, who had lived with me ever since I married. I spoke eagerly to him: "Well, Hugh, how is your mistress? how is every body at home?" The man opened the gate in silence. I repeated my question: "Is your lady well?—is she at home?"—"My lady—Sir—" said he, "is—I—thought, Sir—My lady—" I was struck with astonishment and terror, and throwing myself off my horse, I demanded impatiently what was the matter, and where was my wife? "My mistress, Sir, is gone from home, has been gone these two days."—"Gone!" exclaimed I; "how gone? what is it you mean?"

"My dear master," said the poor fellow, "I waited here to see you before

you went into the house. My lady has left it, not meaning, I fear, to return."

—"Not return?—And her mother—is she with her?"—"The old lady went yesterday, Sir, saying she could not bear to see your honour after what had happened."

"I found myself become giddy, and leaning on my servant, endeavoured to recover recollection and fortitude: but the one destroyed the other. "My son!" cried I, "my boy! where is he?"—"Within, Sir, with his tutor," was the answer. "And my wife is gone, you say, not to return! I do not understand what it means!—Gone! for what purpose?—with whom gone?"

"Ah, Sir!" said the honest man, "it is not for servants to give their opinion on such matters. It is not for us to see more than our betters like we should; but indeed there is hardly one of us who did not guess at the same person as being he who has enticed my lady. It is no sudden



sudden thing I fear, though to be sure nobody dared to think of such a notion."

"What is it you mean, Hugh? Tell me plainly and at once."

"Why, then, Sir, it is that Mr. Frederic Halwyn my lady has gone off with. Come, dear Sir, let me lead you into the house. God forgive us, that any body alive could be so ungrateful! Sir—Sir—recover yourself—Let me call the tutor, and my young master. The sight of him will be a comfort to you."

"Stir not on your life," cried I, "to call any one. Go round, and open the door of the library, next the garden. Bring me candles thither, and let me not see any other servant. As for my poor boy!——"

"My voice failed me; and the worthy-hearted fellow, trembling, entreated me to let him stay to help me into the house; but I fiercely bade him obey me; and hastened, with hurried steps, and in  
a state

a state of mind I cannot now think of without terror, to my library, where I threw myself into a chair breathless and almost senseless. Hugh followed me with a candle, and two letters which he put on the table in silence. I thought I heard the voice of my son. I started up, bade the man leave me, and locked the door.

“ Who can describe chaos, or analyse the mingled emotions of a soul agonized like mine? My mind seemed to have been at once brutalized. It was not blood, but vitriol and fire that I thought circulated in my veins. I could at that moment have committed any act of desperation, on myself, on my innocent child, or even the first being that came in my way; but no weapon was at hand, for Hugh, in his honest zeal, had thrown my sword (which hung near the chimney) out of the window before I entered the room; and the pistols over the fire-place were not charged. I know not whether,  
if

if I had been in my dressing-room, the razor or the knife with which I cut my nails, would not have served for the instruments of vengeance against myself.

“ I groaned aloud; I shrieked; I threw myself on the floor, and beat my head against it, till the blood gushed from my nose, and, half stunned, I lay breathless, and with diminished sensation. There was a noise without: it was like persons whispering. I arose, with a confused idea that I ought to sacrifice the first person who dared to intrude upon me. A voice which I knew to be that of Mr. Warley, my boy’s tutor, then entreated me to open the door. All this while I had grasped in my convulsed hands the two letters; one of which I knew was from my wife, and one from her mother. ‘ Sir,’ said the voice which now addressed me, ‘ let me beg of you to open the door. It is your son, who, by me, implores you.’—‘ My son!’ cried I, “ my son!—I have no son!

fon!—Leave me all of you, or what I shall do may be dreadful. Mr. Warley, take care of your own safety.” The whispering was then renewed for a moment, while I placed myself near the door, determined to revenge the intrusion on the first person who dared to enter. But the lock was suddenly forced; and my steward, assisted by Mr. Warley and all my men servants, made me almost instantly their prisoner. What followed was all raving and phrensy. I was, in truth, in a condition of mind that made the coercion now used absolutely necessary, to prevent my doing some injury to others or myself. A medical friend, for whom I had a great esteem, directed these proceedings, and his was the first voice to which I could be prevailed upon to listen. Yet his arguments I should have rejected with abhorrence and contempt, had they been like those which are generally used by the consolers of the unhappy. He preached none of that cold-

blooded

blooded optimism, to which the hypocrites who recommend it to others know their own hearts refuse to accede. On the contrary, he allowed that my misfortune was the greatest and most insupportable that a manly spirit could be called upon to endure. Yet he bade me look at the calamities under which every one groaned more or less ; not to console myself by comparing my case with that of others, but that I might learn to submit to the common lot of humanity, in which evil does most undoubtedly predominate, from the cradle to the grave. ‘ Half the miseries we endure,’ said he, ‘ we owe to our wild schemes of happiness, our romantic ideas of perfection. You married the woman whose fidelity and ingratitude now deprive you of your reason, at a time of life when, if you had thought any other qualification but those of person necessary, you were no judge whether they existed or no. Eminent beauty in yet  
early

early youth ; with mild manners and apparent good nature, at a time when she was the idol of a mother who never contradicted her ; a few trifling acquirements which neither improved her heart nor her understanding ; all this you saw she possessed : and certainly few men of your age would have thought of inquiring for more. I believe, my friend, it is a melancholy truth, that women have no character at all ; and what is called their education gives none : it only helps to obliterate any distinguishing traits of original disposition which here and there may rise by chance into higher styles of character. We set out with saying that women *must* do so and so, and *think* so and so, as their grandmother and mothers thought before them. If any of them venture even to look as if they had any will of their own, or supposed themselves capable of reasoning, how immediately are they marked as something monstrous, absurd, and out of the

the

the course of nature ! while the most insipid moppet that ever looked in a glass is preferred to one of those reasoning damsels, especially by empty and superficial young men ; who, such as the majority of them are, two-thirds of the younger women, desire only to please. What then are we to expect from women, who, flattered into angels in their youth, forget that age will come ; and sickness, perhaps, even sooner than time blast the perfections on which all their vanity is founded ? With this incense, my friend, your unhappy wife had been fed, till it became impossible for her to live without it. Your tenderness and affection were not enough for her, when you ceased to tell her she was more than human. As long as she was suffered, as during your gay life in London, to hear it from five hundred fools every year, she was in some degree content ; but, reduced by a residence in the country to dwindle into a mere mortal woman,

man, a mother and a wife, she hungered and thirsted for the delectable and high-seasoned admiration, by which alone she had contrived to keep herself in good humour with herself; and the first man she saw whose taste and elegance qualified him in her opinion to gratify her vanity, easily taught her to forget her honour, her husband, and her children. And will *you*, my friend, give up your reason, and abandon your child, and your friends for *such* a woman? Shake off this unmanly, this degrading weakness. Shew her that you can live without her; and do not, I beseech you, forget your duties, because she never understood hers. As to the wretch who has repaid your unexampled friendship with the blackest ingratitude, I am convinced he will give you no opportunity personally punishing him. The lady, you see, says, in her letter, that as neither of them can ever behold you more, they have taken such means of concealment



ment as will make it impossible for you ever to meet them. Tear her then from your heart for ever. The struggle will be dreadful, but surely infinitely preferable to the long lingering misery of contending with insulted affection; of being considered as the poor-spirited dupe of such a woman.' I listened to the arguments of my friend with the attention his understanding as well as his regard for me deserved. I learned to blush for the weakness I had shewn, and resumed, at least apparently, a degree of tranquillity; but my heart was irrecoverably wounded. My temper was changed; I had no longer pleasure in any of my former pursuits. I shunned society, and shut myself for whole weeks, and even months, among my books. Even the education of my poor boy, which I used to superintend myself, and which had once been my first gratification, I now had no courage to attend to. 'For what,' said I, 'am I teaching him the elegancies

elegancies of literature and the refinements of art? To quicken his sensibility, to inflame his passions, to set high his taste for perfection, all perhaps to prepare for him the sad certainty of suffering such as mine; all, that he may be more completely and systematically wretched. Sometimes, though I doted on my son, I was unable to stay with him, and wandered about from place to place where I was not known, or hid myself among the crowds of London, as the place where I might with the least interruption indulge the anguish which time itself seemed incapable of healing. Meanwhile, however, I took the means my lawyers prescribed to me, to obtain a divorce. The first steps towards it were attended with considerable difficulties, for the unhappy woman and her paramour were abroad; where, after eighteen or twenty months, he had left her, promising however to return, and had gone to America, on one of those

commercial speculations in which he was still engaged. Mrs. Frederic Halwyn, for she had taken the name of her seducer, had then, (as those my lawyers employed to inquire, informed us) struggled for some time with the inconveniences of narrow circumstances, and a doubtful character in a foreign country, still expecting the return of her lover, till necessity compelled her to throw herself on the compassion of her mother, who very reluctantly received her, though to the folly of that weak and worthless woman the errors of her daughter may justly be imputed. The lawyers now proceeded to obtain a divorce for me, which, as it met with no opposition, was decided about two years and a half after our first separation; and as I had taken Fanny without any fortune, she was reduced to a very destitute state, and became wholly dependent on her mother and her sister. This I never intended; and as soon as the necessary forms could be gone through,

through, I presented to Miss Frances Berrington, for she was now to bear her maiden name, a thousand pounds for her immediate occasions, and a settlement of four hundred a year during her life. She wrote to thank me; but I would not open her letter: she implored me to see her only for five minutes, in presence of any persons I would name; but worlds would not have bribed me at that time to have heard the sound of her sweet voice, or to have looked once at that countenance so long the book of fate to me; and fearful lest she should attempt to procure an interview by stratagem, I set out with my son and his tutor on a journey to Scotland, not with any hope of forgetting my wretchedness, yet determined for his sake, who was now in his eleventh year, to endure it more like a man than I had hitherto done.

“On him, for he was all I had left in the world, my attention became more

and more fixed. I studied incessantly how to secure for his future life that happiness which was for ever to be denied to my own. His person had even more beauty than is to be wished for in a boy: he was the exact image of his mother, and his temper was likely I feared to resemble hers. He had the same indecision, the same facility of being governed by any one who should acquire an ascendancy over him, and, I feared, would have all her faults of personal vanity; and with such a fortune as he would possess, I dreaded the consequences of this disposition. After a long debate I could not determine to send him to a public school; yet I began to see that the wandering and unsettled life I led, was, notwithstanding his tutor was a very attentive and proper person, inimical to that persevering application to which I knew such a disposition ought to be habituated. Just as these difficulties pressed the most forcibly

cibly on my mind, I was at Buxton; where, on my way from the north, I stopped to pass a fortnight. There I became acquainted with a family of the name of Hamilton. It consisted of a father and three daughters, of which the eldest was about seven-and-twenty, the next younger by many years, and the third yet a child. Mr. Hamilton, who was one of the many branches of the noble family of that name, was a scholar, and had seen a great deal of the world, having resided many years abroad in a public capacity. His conversation was particularly agreeable to me; for, though he had acquired rather too much of the formality that is attached to the diplomatic character, his knowledge was extensive, and his mind well cultivated, while I could not but admire the manner in which he lived with his family, and their affection for him. The eldest, who was an accomplished woman, possessed all his confidence, and he often

told me, that her judgment was always his guide in cases where he doubted his own. Her understanding did indeed appear to be of a superior rank, and her management of her father's family, as well as her attention to the education of her younger sisters, though it was done without parade, seemed so much what it ought to be, that no one who observed it could fail to be prejudiced in her favour. Her person was not strikingly handsome; but it was far from being disagreeable. Her face was rather agreeable than beautiful; but her large dark eyes gave it a character of intelligence, which accorded with the understanding she seemed to possess. Ever to love again as I *had* loved was impossible; but I insensibly found reasons for prolonging my stay at Buxton, and began to consider Miss Hamilton as one who might again attach me to a home, and be the best coadjutor I could find in the education of my son. I studied her  
carefully,

carefully, and, I thought, with impartial eyes. All to whom I spoke of her were unanimous in her praise, and the fondness she expressed for my boy would have made a less elegant woman agreeable in my eyes. My story, and the deep anguish which still preyed on my heart when I thought (and I could not cease to think) of his mother, were well known to Mr. Hamilton, and I knew his daughter had heard it from him. But she seemed to feel for me a degree of pity which soothed my imagination. I liked her more and more; and at length, after an acquaintance of about two months, I offered myself, and was accepted. Two months more intervened before the settlements and other necessary preparations were ready, and during all that time I found, in the apparent temper, manners, and conduct of Miss Hamilton, every reason to be satisfied with the choice I had made. Since the fatal day when the cruel flight of my



unhappy Fanny had rendered my house in Dorsetshire odious to me, I never had acquired the courage to make it my abode, and now it was not without a very painful effort that I determined to carry thither her successor. But, conscious of my own weakness, and to remove as much as was possible objects that might nourish it, I had many alterations made in the house, and entirely new furnished it, as if in compliment to its future mistress. Thither it was her wish to go in the spring which succeeded our marriage; and I re-visited with another than Fanny a place where her image more than at any other residence was perpetually present to me, while the very great and increasing resemblance her son bore to her, gave me, in despite of reason, sensations of such mingled pleasure and anguish as I should vainly attempt to describe.

“ I had, however, a great esteem and even affection for my now wife. She  
acquitted

acquitted herself of every duty she had undertaken, with an exactitude which left me nothing in reason to wish. Yet I was, after eighteen or twenty months had elapsed, insensibly fatigued by a sort of minute attention to economy, which I thought often took up time that might have been much more rationally and indeed usefully employed. Instead of cultivating talents for literature and conversation, which I had fancied were of the first rate, she sat whole mornings with a pen in her hand reckoning the pence and even halfpence that had been expended during the week; and in the household affairs, as well as in all that related to her personal expences and those of my son, there was a superfluous and teasing attention to trifles, that I sometimes found excessively tiresome—and I knew it was wholly unnecessary. Immediately on her arrival at the Dorsetshire House all the old servants had been discharged, without even excepting

my faithful Hugh, who (he being now an old man,) I pensioned as well as one or two others, and they still lived in the villages near us, of which they were natives. My wife soon took occasion to forbid their ever coming to the house; and when I ventured gently to remonstrate, she told me, that after the disorders that had occurred in my family while these people lived with me, she was astonished how I could wish to encourage them about me; but, as she should conduct my house in a very different manner she hoped, in *every respect*, from that in which it was then managed, I must permit her to insist on keeping all such persons at a distance. Yet it was from these people that, by means of her favourite maid, she contrived to gather anecdotes of the past, which she treasured up in her mind; and sometimes when her good humour, which I soon found was not invincible, forsook her, she brought them forward in the way of

contrasting her conduct with that of her predecessor, with a degree of malignity which affected me more than I wished to let appear; for I hoped that domestic tranquillity might yet be mine, though I felt myself every day more and more hopeless of happiness.

“ The attention of my wife to my beloved boy had never, after her marriage, been what I had flattered myself it would be. I knew how much a woman of sense and spirit can contribute to forming the mind and manners of a young man; but if I hinted at my wishes that she would admit him to be with her whenever his tutor or his exercise left him unoccupied, she resented it by intimating that I had married her only to make her a governess, and that no company was so irksome as that of a great rude boy, who ought to be at school. My poor Francis, however, was not rude; his temper was too mild, too facile, and his turn rather for books and

drawing than for the volatility and noisy thoughtlessness of his age. But Mrs. George Denbigh was greatly changed in her opinion of him since her marriage; and this estrangement became more visible, when, in the third year of our marriage, she bore a daughter. From that period she seemed to consider my son as an usurper, who would have too great a share of the fortune she wished wholly to monopolize for this and other children she supposed it likely she should have; and, artful as she was, she found it impossible to disguise her real sentiments. My home, whether in London or the country, now became every hour more and more uneasy to me. My son, who was the object dearest to my heart, would soon I foresaw be driven, with his tutor, who was an excellent man, to some less unpleasant residence: yet I could not bear to part with him; and partly by authority and partly by making it her own interest, I prevented for another  
twelve-

twelvemonth the increase towards my son of conduct that was become intolerable to me. Frank was then fifteen, very tall of his age ; yet the beauty of his face, and the slenderness of his form, prevented him from assuming a manly appearance ; but his spirit was high, candid, and generous, and his attachment to me, his tender solicitude to prevent my every wish, and his total exemption from all vice, made him so inexpressibly dear to me, that, though he was qualified for the University, and it had been my intention to send him thither, I could not but with extreme reluctance ; and though Mr. Warley was to accompany him, determine for the first time to separate myself from him.

“ It was this increasing attachment to merit which malice itself could not deny, and the expence which Mrs. George Denbigh foresaw would attend sending him to Oxford, that embittered her spirit against us both. I concealed it from  
Frank

Frank as much as I could, and for that purpose went out more than I had ever been accustomed to do, and took him with me. This, however, only made matters worse on my return, and I was reproached with having not even natural affection for my daughter, now above two years old. The mildest and most forbearing temper cannot endure beyond a certain point; and it most unfortunately happened, that at this period I returned with Frank and his tutor from an excursion of a fortnight, and found my wife in a very ill humour. Her little girl had taken the measles in my absence; and though her life was in no danger, a humour had fallen into her eyes, which her mother thought was likely for ever to disfigure her. I expressed, what I really felt, sincere concern at this circumstance; when, instead of such an answer as might have been expected, my wife bade me not affect what she knew I did not feel. ‘*My child,*’  
said

said she sharply, ‘never possessed your affections; it is *beauty* only that engages your heart, although it has brought upon you nothing but shame and disgrace!’ My son, astonished at the manner in which this was spoken, and seeing how greatly I was shocked, mildly entreated her to explain herself; when she had the unfeminine inhumanity to tell him to seek it in the disgraceful history of his mother, now a common prostitute in the streets of London!

“From my poor boy the real circumstances that related to his mother had been carefully concealed. He imagined that she had left me in consequence of some slight disagreement relative to the affair of her sister’s husband, and that, having been seized with a fever in London, she had there died before our reconciliation, which had occasioned the deep melancholy I had in the succeeding years fallen into. This story, impressed for six years on his mind, was never doubted, when the veil  
was



was thus rudely torn off that had so carefully concealed from him the disgraceful reality, more disgraceful indeed than I was myself aware of; for I had now for many years abstained from inquiring after that unhappy woman, whose annuity my steward regularly paid every quarter.

“ Francis, with an expression I shall never forget, turned towards me. His speaking eyes demanded an instant explanation. I feared he would have fallen at my feet; and clasping him in my arms, I bade him bear like a man an insult which should never be repeated; then, unable wholly to refrain from expressing the indignation I felt, I spoke to Mrs. Denbigh with more passionate severity than ever I had used towards her before; and hastened with my son from a scene of provocation to which I determined at that moment never again to expose him, whatever my now hateful bonds might bind me to endure. I  
imme-

immediately ordered my post-chaise, and with my son, his tutor, and our own servants, set out for London; giving my boy no time to hear the truth which at that moment I had not resolution to tell him. At the first post town, however, another chaise was ordered for Mr. Warley; and then, my poor Francis and I travelled together, and I related to him the cruel misconduct of his mother; and saw, though I palliated rather than exaggerated every circumstance, that while he heard me in profound silence, every word I uttered sunk with fatal force into his heart.

“ ‘And does she still live, Sir?’ said he in a tremulous voice, ‘Does my mother—(Oh, God! how shall I ask it?)—does my mother still live, and live in infamy—in prostitution?’

“What a question from a son to a father!—from such a son to a father feeling as I felt! I endeavoured to reassure him, however; I told him, I hoped

hoped and believed that assertion originated only in the malice of Mrs. Denbigh; for that I trusted, as his unhappy mother had a sufficient income, necessity could not, so mere constitutional vice would not, induce her to descend to this last wretched degradation; and that her annuity continued to be paid to the same person who had, from the first year of my divorcing her, always received it.

“ Francis forbore to ask any farther questions, and our journey was made in melancholy silence. I tried, but unsuccessfully, to speak on any other topic: the mind of my poor boy seemed wholly absorbed by reflections on what he had heard; and when we arrived at the house I inhabited in town, I beheld him with undescribable anguish. His countenance had lost its bloom, his eyes were heavy and sunk; he seemed half unconscious whatever I said to him; he ate nothing; and, as his chamber was adjoining to mine, I heard but too plainly, though

though I forbore to notice it, that he did not sleep during the whole of the succeeding night. I arose, however, before him; and concealing none of my fears or their sources from Mr. Warley, I consulted with him on what it was best to do; for, from my knowledge of the temper and disposition of my son, I foresaw the most fatal consequences from the wound his sensibility had thus received. Warley imagined, with probability enough, that the impression however deep would easily be erased from a young mind, to which almost every object beyond the paternal roof was new. He advised me to throw him as much as I could into scenes of innocent gaiety and dissipation for a few weeks, but never without either one or other of us, his father or his tutor, accompanying him. I had many acquaintance in town, (for a man of fortune can always command acquaintance,) at whose houses he would see variety of characters. The public

public amusements he had seldom visited; and I concluded with Mr. Warley, that we should conquer in a short time the depression he now suffered under; and afterwards, as the Easter term would begin, he was to go to Christchurch, of which college I had entered him a gentleman commoner some months before.

“ In pursuance of this plan, I affected an ease of mind which I was very far from feeling. I endeavoured to appear to Frank as if having been long accustomed to our mutual misfortune; I had taught myself to consider it, without suffering more than I should have done had I known his mother had been dead; yet heaven is my witness with how much more anguish I always thought of her, unworthy as she had proved herself, than if I had known she no longer inhabited this world! But I dared not, while I persevered in this plan, flatter myself it was successful. My son went  
where

wherever I told him amusement was to be found, and whither I seemed to wish he should go; but nothing appeared to amuse him, or to have any power to detach him from the sad subject which occupied his thoughts, corroded his heart, and I thought was visibly undermining his health.

“ After we had been about three weeks in London, during which time Mrs. Denbigh never deigned to make in writing any apology for the conduct that had driven me from the country, it happened that I dined with a party of gentlemen, where, as I knew the conversation would turn wholly on politics and on party disputes, which at that period ran very high, I thought my son would find rather fatigue than amusement; it was settled therefore that he should dine at home with his tutor, and afterwards go to a new play in which a celebrated actress performed her part so admirably, that during the three or four  
nights

nights it had been performed, the house had been greatly crowded. I promised to meet them there ; but it was late before we arose from table, and still later before my friends would suffer me to go. At length I reached the theatre ; but the play was over, and even half the entertainment passed. I went into an upper box, and surveyed the house ; but I could not perceive those of whom I was in search. I crossed to the other side, but still could not perceive them ; and I concluded, as it had often happened before, that my young man, satisfied with the play, had returned home before the afterpiece began. It was now closed, and I was making my way out with the crowd, when every body was stopped in the lobby by a number of persons assembled round two men who were quarrelling, and, as it was understood, insisting on fighting about some women of the town. The tumult became so great that the sentinels were called, and I saw  
 flicks

flicks and bayonets brandished about, and heard the oaths of the men and the shrieks of the women, with a degree of disgust that urged me to hasten from this scene of vice and noise; when pressing near the disputing parties to reach the door, I heard—Oh, memory! thou wert but too faithful!—I was struck by the tone of a voice which, though seven years had passed since I last heard it, still made my heart vibrate. I stepped forward, and I saw a face—faded indeed! and changed. The features were disfigured by bad habits, and the complexion polluted by art; but it was the face on which I had gazed so often with rapture. Alas! I saw before me in one of the objects of ruffianly contention my once-loved lamented Fanny. She was appealing to strangers for protection against the insults that some of the men had offered her, and which others were now trying to resent; but the people she was speaking to treated her with scorn and derision, and at that moment,



moment, for it was all momentary, a blow was levelled at her from one of the contending parties. I saw it about to fall on her; and receiving it on my shoulder, I involuntarily clasped my arms round her; and either from my appearance, or rather because a humane action, for whosoever exerted meets with applause from any assembly of English people, the spectators gave me way, and I bore her to a seat. She knew me, and fell senseless into my arms.

“ The crowd was soon dispersed; the persons who had been fighting were carried away in custody. Few others felt any curiosity about the poor abandoned creature that had been one of the causes of quarrel; and the other women who had been parties in it were glad to escape: so that I soon found myself almost alone with this fatal object, the cause of all the calamities of my life; and, merciful Heaven! in what a situation did I see her!

“ The faded reality, the diminished and  
injured

injured beauty of that form and face, which were so clearly represented by my heart to my imagination, was in my arms. I could have pressed it to my bosom ;— but then came the idea of that perfidy, ingratitude, and degradation which had stained this lovely image, once so perfect ; the recollection of the long years of misery succeeding those when my tenderness, my affection, should have secured all her gratitude and my happiness. No : it is impossible, by any form of words I can find, to describe what at that moment passed in my mind. I could now have rejoiced in the illusion that time only had dimmed the lustre of that eminent beauty ; and by a sudden revulsion of my thoughts, I next meditated how to shake from me the worthless destroyer of my peace, merely performing towards her the duties of humanity as an unfortunate woman.

“ Thought is rapid under the domination of violent passions ; and though

hardly two minutes had passed, and Fanny still lay senseless in my arms, I had run over in idea all my preceding life, and brought my mind to the consideration of what I and what she now was. Some of the women who sell books and slight refreshments about the avenues of the theatre now came up, to propose services which I had not recollection enough to ask. I offered them money to procure help; I stammered out some unconnected sentences; but I was myself almost as much in want of assistance as the fragile and apparently half dead object I supported, when suddenly I saw before me my son! Imagine the strange impropriety of the situation in which he beheld me; the impossibility of my accounting to him for it.... ‘Sir,’ cried my poor boy, astonished at my confusion, ‘we have sought you the whole evening.’ He thought not at that moment of his mother; he only blushed to believe that his father had  
 forgotten

forgotten in his own person that propriety of conduct he had so earnestly enforced towards himself. Divided, torn, distracted by so many contending sensations, I felt my head grow giddy, and I was tempted to rush into the street, and like a maniac proclaim aloud the insupportable anguish of my bursting heart.

“ The pale countenance of Frank, (for mine, when he looked at it steadily, was not that of a man engaged in a transient intrigue) his trembling hand as he grasped mine, recalled in some degree my scattered senses. But how could I so shock him as to tell him the truth?— How could I say, ‘ This woman whom you see, and who is evidently one that subsists on the casual profits of prostitution, is she who bore you !’ My heart recoiled. I bade him in almost an angry tone leave me. It was very unusual, indeed, for Frank to hear from *me* a word that sounded harshly in his ears.

At that instant, however, Mr. Warley appeared. I beckoned to him. The women who had surrounded us had by this time interposed, and supported the sad object of my solicitude. I left her to their care, while I seized Warley's arm; and briefly communicating to him the miserable truth, I besought him to carry my son from a scene I could with difficulty support myself.

"Mr. Warley approached him, and after a short conversation they retired together; but I saw, with dread and amazement, the look which my unhappy son cast toward me, and then toward his mother. Never, no, never will the expression of his countenance at that moment be erased from my memory. I was relieved, however, by seeing him depart with his tutor, though I was convinced that he was not, nay, I hardly wished he should be, deceived, as to the person with whom he left me.

"Consideration for him—pity, and

even the weakness of a more tender sentiment—all urged me not to abandon the creature whom, though I could not restore her to honour and to peace, though she could never more be mine, I might at least rescue from the horrid destiny to which the career she was now in would infallibly lead her. I traversed the room where I was in with hurried steps, endeavouring to summon my powers of endurance, that I might not in such a place expose either her or myself. In the mean time she recovered her senses, and all that had passed instantly occurred to her. She looked towards me, anxiously dreading to know whether the man who had once so adored her, and whom she had so irreparably injured, would not, however, be withheld by a momentary impulse of pity from those reproaches which her too busy conscience told her she so well deserved. I drew near her; the beloved name of Fanny rose involuntarily to my lips;

but I checked myself, and, addressing her as a stranger, desired to know if I could be of any service to her in conducting her safe home. She turned her lovely eyes to me with a look most expressive! and attempted, but could not answer me. Uncertain what to do, hardly knowing what I did, I hastily paid the women who had assisted to recover her, and supported her (for she seemed hardly able to walk) down stairs, where my chariot was waiting. I placed her in it, and followed her, without recollecting how improper and even impossible it was for me to conduct her to my own house, and that I knew not, and even dreaded to inquire, her abode. On the repeated question of my astonished servants, whither I would go? I was compelled to ask her, where she lived? She gave me, in a voice hardly articulate, a direction to a street in the outskirts of the town. Thither I ordered the carriage to be driven. We proceeded

ceeded in silence, broken only on her part by deep and convulsive sighs. A dirty-looking servant girl opened the door; and I perceived, when we entered the house (for my mind was now more collected,) that she was surprised at the appearance of her mistress, and still more at mine, whose manner resembled but little that of the people with whom she had been accustomed to see her associate. Our dialogue, when we were alone and she was a little restored, was short and energetic. I could not listen to the agonizing confession she would have made of her errors, her ingratitude, and repentance; or, listening for a moment, I was unable to answer. I thought, however, she did not know that had I been weak enough to have forgiven her perfidy and cruelty, and to have restored her to the place she once held, still there was an insuperable barrier between us; that another now possessed her place; and the child of another



ther was to share with her son my fortune and affection: and this truth, little as she had deserved my consideration, I had not resolution to tell her. Strange, and even now most dreadful to look back upon, were the mingled sensations that then agonized my bosom! They were confused, they were terrible! Her immediate ease and comfort were, however, the predominant wish of my heart. I could not bear to see her in such a situation; liable to want the decencies of life, exposed to the licentious insolence of every wandering drunkard who knew the house to be of ill fame. But to express to her all I felt on this subject was, perhaps, to raise expectations I never meant to fulfil. With such resolution, therefore, as I could collect, I parted from her. I attempted to appear cold; and yet my heart smote me, and my voice faltered, as, bidding her, 'farewell!' I told her, that the recollection of what she was when first our ill-fated acquaintance

ance

ance began, would make me ever solicitous for her welfare ; and that the next day she should receive a letter from me which would explain my future views. I ran through the streets from her lodgings to my own house, without being conscious why I hurried along, or able to determine on what I ought to do when I got there. The idea of my son, from whom it would be impossible to conceal the truth ; the conduct I ought afterwards to observe ; all pressed on my mind with anguish for the debased situation of the once-loved creature I had just left—and I felt as if the power of rationally considering any thing would never again return to me.

“ Breathless and confused I reached my own house. I asked hastily for Frank, and was told he was not gone to bed ; but feeling myself quite unfit to speak to him that night, yet unable to rest without determining on something, I

went to my study, and there sent for Mr. Warley.

“From him I learned that my unhappy boy had not the least doubt who the person was whom he had seen with me; and, indeed, had other evidence been wanting, the striking resemblance between them could not have escaped him. The account Mr. Warley gave me of the effect this discovery had on Frank made me shudder. I dreaded more than ever to come to an explanation, of which, however, I saw the necessity, and I passed the night in considering what I ought to say to him, and how I ought to act towards his mother. By the morning I had taken my resolution, and I sent for him. Pale, dejected, unable to answer my anxious inquiries after his health, he, after a moment, threw himself into my arms, and burst into tears. ‘Oh, my father!’ said he, ‘had I never been deceived as to the  
unhappy

unhappy person we saw last night, Mrs. Maynard's cruel reproaches would not so deeply have stung me, nor should I suffer what I do now.' I felt at that moment a proof that even those deceptions which are called pious frauds are wrong; yet I was ignorant myself the situation of the wretched mother, though I knew enough to wish her existence might be concealed from her son. It was now, however, no time for me to repent of the past; it was necessary that I should consider only the future; and I summoned courage to enter on the subject, and to relate to Frank all that had happened, of the ostensible circumstances of which I found he had a clear recollection, though he was hardly eight years old, and though so much pains had been taken to deceive him. He remembered the abrupt departure of his mother; he remembered my passionate agonies; and had thought it strange, that after some time, when he was told his

mother was dead, I seemed less affected than I was when she left me. He had at that early age an idea of death, but none of those disagreements which had been assigned as having caused, what he for some time believed would be, a temporary absence.

“ While I related to him the truth, he sat with his arms thrown on a writing-table that was before him, and his face hid by his hands. He was silent. I could hear that he suppressed his sighs, and struggled with the painful sensations that agitated his bosom, especially when I was obliged to touch on the circumstances of premeditated ingratitude, which had so aggravated the faithless conduct of his mother. I paused—I had finished this dreadful explanation, and my poor boy lifted up his head, and fixed his eyes on mine with an expression so full of mingled emotion, that I shall never cease to remember it. ‘ Sir!’ said he, his voice trembling so much as to be almost

almost inarticulate, ‘ your injuries have indeed been great ;—but—the who has injured you is—still *my* mother !—Will you abandon her to a course of life such as she is now in ?’ . . . . . “ I will not be again so minute in relating our conversations. You now understand enough of our dispositions to imagine what they must have been ! Before I could execute the engagements, now made to my son, it was necessary to know, if she to whom they related, and who had I found taken the name of Saville, would on her part enter into my views ; and, while I should consider her as a sister, relinquish for ever a way of life so disgraceful to those connected with her by more than human ties, and which no human laws could dissolve. I had, it is true, seen appearances of remorse and repentance, but they might be only the consequences of sudden surprise and shame.

“ I found,

“I found, however, the next day, that there was every reason to believe her perfectly sincere. She deplored her fatal infatuation, and gave me such proofs of the villainous arts of her seducer, as though they could not exculpate her, greatly lessened her crime. He had abandoned her in a foreign country, taking with him every thing he could obtain from her in money and jewels, under pretence of carrying on some of those schemes which were to raise him to unbounded affluence; and on the same fallacious ideas had prevailed upon her to make over her annuity in such a way, as that its alienation might be concealed from the persons who paid it quarterly on my behalf.

“I have already been too minute. Let me, therefore, hasten to relate not my conversation with my son, or his subsequent interview with his mother; I must leave those scenes to your imagination,

nation, since I have no power to dwell upon them. I took a small but elegant detached house for that ill-fated woman, in a village four miles from London ; whither, having discharged all her debts and her servant, and concealed her abode as much as possible by changing her name, she removed. However convinced of her penitence, it never was my intention to see her after this arrangement ; but I permitted my son to visit her alone, and I took other means than by questioning him to assure myself of the propriety of her conduct.

“ Having, therefore, satisfied myself in having done all that the duties of humanity required of me ; and flattering myself that Frank, though still very much dispirited, had conquered the effects of the shock this occurrence had given him, I returned to consider his future destination, and in about a fortnight named to him the necessity of his preparing



paring for Oxford. He changed countenance while I spoke, and, when I paused, said, ‘I have never yet disobeyed my father, nor would I in any other instance for a thousand worlds; but not even my fear of offending him, which I protest is little inferior to that of death itself, will induce me to go to Oxford.’

“I anxiously inquired the reason of a resolution so extraordinary. He endeavoured to evade the question; and when he found that was not to be done, he entreated me to ask Mr. Warley.

“That worthy man, with every expression of the truest concern, put into my hands a letter, which a day or two before my son had received from the woman who now bore my name, and was called my wife. It was to inform him, in the most bitter and sarcastic words, that *my* infamous secession from her and from honour, to take back a  
harlot,

harlot, and set all decency at defiance, was well known; that her family (she piqued herself upon her family) were about to obtain justice for her; but that in the mean time she could not but congratulate him on the fortunate and creditable circumstances under which he was about to begin his studies at Oxford, where he might be assured the respectability of *both* his parents was already well known.

“ Mr. Warley saw my lips tremble with rage, and heard, as I would have answered him, my voice inarticulate and choaked. He attempted, but in vain, to appease me; the tumult, the agony of my soul, only increased by his remonstrances. I called Heaven to witness, that the monster (for woman I could not call her) who had thus endeavoured to wound me through my son, I would never again live with, never meet but with the purpose of parting with her for ever! My poor unhappy boy entered

tered my apartment at that moment, and his countenance had instantaneously the effect of restoring me to some command over myself. I saw, that while it was necessary to check the expressions of that pain this inhuman conduct had inflicted, I should yet hurt him, if I appeared not to feel it acutely. Affected in a manner of which it is impossible to convey an idea to another, by the look, the manner, the silent misery of my son, I was compelled to shorten our conversation; and leaving him with Mr. Warley, who had always great influence over his mind, I went out under pretence of business that admitted of no delay, and took my way to the Park, which was only at the end of the street, in hopes that the air and a short conference with myself would abate the perturbation of my mind, which now was hardly short of phrensy.

“After some hours I became calmer; for I had now formed a plan for securing,

ing,

ing, as far as it might yet be done, my own tranquillity in another country—after having provided in this, for the support of the poor penitent, who, though no longer my wife, depended for her subsistence on me, and left Mrs. Maynard and her daughter in such a situation, as to pecuniary concerns, as should on her part preclude every just complaint, I determined that I would accompany my son to pursue his studies at Laufanne, at that time much frequented for the purposes of education: and I flattered myself that his mind would gradually regain its tranquillity; that his youth, and facility which all innocent and rational pleasures might there be enjoyed, together with his being removed from the scenes where he had so cruelly suffered, and from the intercourse of all those in whose opinion he conceived himself disgraced, would give another turn to his thoughts, and restore him to me such as my excessive affection

affection for him had from his infancy represented to me that he would one day be.

“ This plan, which, the longer I considered it, offered new advantages, served to tranquillize my mind for some days, though I saw that my poor Frank became more and more melancholy and reserved. I spoke to him of my project. He acquiesced, but without the slightest appearance of being pleased. I even began the preparations for our journey, and sent for the lawyers, whose advice was necessary to settle the disposition of my fortune in my absence. Frank saw all this going on without any remark: it seemed as if, too certain of being miserable every where, he was indifferent as to place. I became, however, very uneasy, and particularly when I observed, that on those days when he had visited his mother his dejection was visibly increased. I had permitted him to see her once or twice a week; but I  
never

never went with him, or held any communication with her but by letters which he carried; and on these occasions he went alone on horseback, left his servants should guess to whom those visits were paid.

“ They were usually made in a morning, and he returned to dress for dinner about four o’clock: but one day, when he had told me he was going thither, I waited dinner for him till five, till six, till seven. He came not. I began to be uneasy, yet appeased my first inquietude by supposing, that as the spring was advancing, and the evening fine, he might have been induced to dine with his mother, and ride home by moonlight. Time however passed, and he was still absent. I could perceive that Mr. Warley’s inquietude was as great as mine; and he proposed to go himself to the village where we imagined he had been, to inquire what detained him. To this I eagerly agreed, and he went off  
instantly

instantly in a hired chaise. But when I had no one either to hear my conjectures, or offer others, I became more intolerably wretched, and utterly unable to support the apprehensions that now every moment increased. I went down therefore with an intention to follow Warley; when, as I opened the door of my house, a post-chaise stopped before it. I sprang forward, hoping to see my son. Gracious God! it was not Frank, it was his mother!

“She knew me by the light of the lamps, and, in a voice of such wild fear as I cannot describe, asked me for him. ‘Is my son here?—*is* he here?’ In tenfold astonishment I answered, ‘No: has he not been with you?’—‘He was—he was with me;—but—some dreadful accident has happened. If you have not seen him—he is dead!—murdered!—I shall never, never behold him more!’

“I cannot tell you what I felt at that moment: an obscure recollection of  
 agony

agony is all that now remains on my mind. My servants, who soon assembled round the chaise, took out the half-frantic woman ; and I had, after a moment, enough presence of mind to entreat her to tell me what cause there was for the frightful apprehensions she entertained. With difficulty I understood, that Frank had, at her entreaty, as he was so soon to take a long farewell of her, dined with her ; that they had afterwards walked out together for about a mile, and perceived that they were followed by a person who had the appearance of an officer. They turned. He passed them in a very rude and insulting manner, and repeated the same insolence twice before they returned to the house ; so that it was with great difficulty she could persuade my son not to resent it. She believed, however, that she had prevailed ; and flattering herself that after a while the stranger would go his way, she detained Frank as long as she could ;  
but



but that between seven and eight o'clock he went to the inn where he usually put up his horse, and, as she imagined, had returned to me. At night, however, her maid, who bought milk at this inn, which was also a farm, came suddenly back, and told her mistress, that the young gentleman who had dined there had had a quarrel with another whom he saw in the inn-yard; that after having, as the people told her, very high words, both had mounted their horses and rode towards London together, for the purpose, as it was understood, of fighting a duel immediately on their arrival there. 'Who was the man?' cried I: 'Give me some means of finding him; it may not yet be too late.'—'None knew his name,' replied the miserable mother; 'they knew only that he had been there two or three times asking questions relative to me and to my son.'

"I must shorten the detail of scenes that kill me even in retrospection.

While

While I yet was considering whither I could go, or what I could do, and my servants were engaged in administering to the unhappy and self-accused woman, a loud rapping at the door made me hurry down myself. Mr. Warley entered, and, grasping my hand, attempted to speak, but could not. ‘You have found him then?’ cried I. He went into the parlour, sunk into a chair, and I saw by the convulsive working of his features that he was endeavouring to acquire resolution to give me a confirmation of my worst fears. ‘It is now,’ said he in a tremulous voice, ‘the time when you are called upon to exert your fortitude. Your son——’

“ ‘Is dead!—Is it so?’

“ ‘Would to God I could say it was not! I have seen him—dead! I had not the satisfaction of receiving his last breath!’

“Whosoever having human feelings has undergone such a calamity as that

which now fell upon me, even when a long and hopeless illness has prepared them for it, will know how to imagine what were my sufferings. To describe them would be to attempt torturing you and myself. I was for some hours in a state of distraction; and when exhausted nature could endure these violent emotions of the mind no longer, I sunk into insensibility; from which I was awakened only by the horror I felt at being told Mrs. Maynard and her daughter were in the house. There also had remained, because she was not in a condition to be moved, the most wretched of women and of mothers. With recollection, resentment towards Mrs. Maynard returned; yet I did not then know that she had levelled the instrument of death against the breast of my son.

“ I peremptorily refused to see her, and ordered her and her daughter instantly to quit my house. It was with infinite difficulty, and not without applying

ing to some of her relations, that Mr. Warley prevailed on her to comply. I then learned the cause of the cruel event I deplored.

“ Mrs. Maynard had heard that I had received back my first wife ; that I had even taken her from a life of public prostitution ; and though she was not yet established at my house in London, that I supported her in splendour a few miles from it, where I, as well as my son, constantly visited her. To ascertain the truth of this, Mrs. Maynard could think of no better expedient than engaging her brother, Gordon Hamilton, a young man who had been ever since her marriage on foreign service, to act at once as her spy and the avenger of her quarrel. He left my house in Dorsetshire, where he had been deeply impressed with the supposed injuries of his sister, and did not disdain to employ persons to watch what passed at my house in town. There they gained no intelli-

gence, but they set themselves to follow both me and my son wherever we went. He was soon traced to the village where was the habitation of his mother ; yet when Gordon Hamilton saw her, she appeared to him too young to be the person of whom he was in search. Not, however, to be deceived, he engaged in his next inquiry an acquaintance of his to accompany him, who had known the unfortunate Fanny during the time she had been avowedly living on the wages of infamy. This man, profligate, unprincipled, and unfeeling, immediately acknowledged, and, having followed her on one of her solitary walks, had insultingly accosted her. Hamilton having then no farther doubts had waited from day to day about the village, meaning to accost me or my son. I never went thither, and he was soon tired of expecting me. Yet was he not at all convinced that any part of what his sister had heard was exaggerated ;  
and

and on receiving a letter from her, reproaching him with the coldness and indifference with which he bore the cruel affront ~~my~~ conduct was to his family, he had called at my door, inquiring for me; when the servant, an ignorant boy, whom he questioned, and who had received general orders to deny me, had told him I was gone out of town; and on his asking if it was to Beckenham, the village where the object of his jealousy resided, the boy answered ‘Yes,’ merely to be dismissed from his eager importunity. Thither, therefore, the hot-headed ruffian hurried, and, missing me, had followed and insulted my son when walking with his mother; then repairing to the inn, he waited till Frank was mounting his horse to return to town; when he went up to him, and after a few words they went together into a field, where my son was seen to strike the other — when the people of the inn-yard interfered, and separated them, but senselessly

suffered them to depart together for London. They repaired to a tavern, from whence Hamilton went for his pistols. They fought; and my unhappy son fell, and died upon the spot. His murderer instantly absconded.

“The body of my poor boy was brought to my house, and three days had elapsed before I was capable of hearing these particulars, or of giving any orders. With returning reason all the horrors of my destiny rushed upon my mind. I had lost the only being that had animated my existence, the sole object of my care and tenderness; and after years in which his delicate health had kept me in constant solicitude, he was snatched from me by the act of a vindictive monster, at the very period when his virtues and his affection were to repay me for all the sufferings of my preceding life.

“Oh! how cruelly to me was aggravated the anguish of the parent bending  
ing

ing over the cold remains of an only child, when I reflected on the character of him whom I had lost, and the circumstances with which his loss was attended! I have dwelt on this cruel period already too long. I feel even at this distance of time, that it is impossible for me to proceed without suffering again all the horrors of the moment. Vengeance alone occupied my mind as soon as I could think steadily, and I determined to pursue over the world the villain who had destroyed me; but my task, before I could set out to gratify the only sentiment I now felt, was not ended. The poor unhappy mother of my lost son, heart-struck, and overwhelmed at once by grief and remorse, was sinking fast into the grave. If I could have forgotten how very dear she once was to me, it was impossible that her being the mother of him I deplored could for a moment escape my memory; and I seemed to be fulfilling his last



wishes, while I fought with the tenderness of a brother to soothe and console her. Yet the sight of her served but to deepen my anguish; and often when I have tried to assume before her some degree of fortitude, I have only mingled my tears and groans with hers, and each has aggravated the sufferings of the other. The unfortunate woman lingered almost two months, and then died in my arms.

“ The misery that had fallen upon me; the death of her, whom she considered her rival; nothing seemed to appease the deep and inveterate hatred of the woman who now bore my name. She attempted to force herself and her daughter into my presence; but such were my dread and abhorrence of her, that I know not to what unmanly and savage excesses the sight of her might have transported me; and while I considered that the little girl was hers, and would by my son’s death succeed to my whole fortune,

tune,

tune, unless I otherwise disposed of it, I sent for a lawyer, and, having made a provision of five hundred a year for the child, gave all the rest of my property in case of my death to one of my friends. Having made this arrangement, I hastened to Hamburgh, whither I was told the duellist or rather murderer had gone, to wait the success of those efforts his friends were making to obtain leave for him to return to Scotland, where he imagined he should be so protected that I should be compelled to drop all attempts to avenge the death of my son.—And certainly my conduct towards his sister, and the provocation that had been given him, were so misrepresented, that almost all of those who were once my friends, had learned to consider me as one of the worst of mankind; and such was the indignation which Mrs. Maynard's story had raised against me, among what is called the generality of the world, that, had I been disposed to have shown my-

self in public (which you will easily believe was far from my intention,) I should have incurred some hazard of personal insult. Such is the perverted state of society, (and that it was such has been, among many, one reason of my flying from it,) that I am sure nothing is more welcome to nine people out of ten, than to be told that a man or woman whom they either happen to know, or who is generally known, has been guilty of some crime for which they deserve to suffer by the public executioner. The avidity with which tales of defamation are received and propagated, the little satisfaction with which any one relates or appreciates honourable actions or meritorious conduct, has been one of those remarks that have most painfully convinced me of the depravity of my species. Rousseau was, towards the end of his life, undoubtedly insane—at least, so he appears to us even according to the account he has left of himself—yet who can say that  
many

many of the injuries which affected him to the derangement of his reason, existed only in his own morbid imagination? Almighty and all-wise Creator and Judge of the Universe! is it thou that permittest thy rational creatures morally and physically to wound and destroy each other? and is man endowed with speech, only to become more fatal to his fellow than the lurking reptile or the prowling savage of the tropical regions?

“ You will not wonder, though I knew not all the clamour which was raised against me, that I knew enough to determine me never to return to London, or to associate any where with those whom I had formerly been acquainted with. My most immediate purpose, however, was to find the person who had robbed me of the being in whose life mine was wrapped—and as soon as I was able I hastened to the Continent.

“ No such person as he of whom I

was in search was to be found at Hamburg or Altona, where I had been taught to look for him ; and after a long search I ascertained, that Hamilton, being now emancipated from his father's authority, who had been dead two years, and doubting the possibility of his return to England, had sold his commission under the King of his native country, and entered into the service of the Emperor of Germany ; in consequence of which he had about a month before been ordered into Bohemia. I followed him from place to place, and was within a few days, and then within a few hours, of coming up with his detachment. This intelligence quickened my speed. I arrived at Prague, where the regiment was, as I understood, to be stationed ; and..... I learned that Hamilton had that very morning fallen in a duel with one of the officers of the detachment, in consequence of some contemptuous treatment which the German conceived him-

self to have received from Hamilton. The aggressor then was punished by other hands than mine, and fell for an injury that was surely not by a million of degrees equal to that *I* had sustained from him. He was already among the dead, and I had been denied the opportunity of saying to him, ‘Thus didst thou——’ Yet vengeance is a passion which is soon deadened in a generous mind. The wretched being whom I had pursued could not have restored to me my murdered child; and after a while I ceased to regret that he had died by other means.

“I had now no passion to satisfy: I was without hope of pleasure and without pursuit of any other kind. My mind was all darkness and confusion; and even the lurid flashes with which the desire of vengeance had lit it up were extinguished. Existence became insupportable to me. I was among a people whose writings seem expressly calculated  
to

to promote suicide. Their books, even those of amusement, treat only of the effects of the most violent passions, and the catastrophe is generally self-murder. On this I had steadily determined—and lingered less from unwillingness to quit a world of which I had so much reason to be weary, than to *feel* my own determination, and to know that the life I abhorred, it was always in my power to shake off. At this moment the friend to whom I had bequeathed the bulk of my fortune, and who had been in the West Indies during the last three years, suddenly appeared at Prague, whither he had followed me from England. I need not describe to you the power which the voice of a friend has over him who has yielded his whole heart to the torpor of despair. I could not altogether close mine against the zeal and the affection of a man, whom I had esteemed and loved from my infancy. I forbear to repeat the arguments with  
which

which he gradually won me from my gloomy purpose. I consented to travel with him, and we wandered round Europe, and visited parts of it little frequented by the English. But on me change of place failed to have lost its usual effect. The cruel recollection of past wretchedness pursued me every where, and I found it impossible to obtain enjoyment in scenes where I had fondly projected travelling with my beloved boy, and where his pale image, such as I had beheld when I took my last farewell, and consigned him to the earth, was for ever present to my mind, whatever was passing before my eyes. My friend, however, would not appear to be discouraged. He persevered in those quiet yet generous efforts, which, judging of me from the generality of mankind, would, he hoped, aided by the great soother of sorrow Time, reconcile me to life, and insensibly restore me to its enjoyment.

In



joyment. In the midst of these noble exertions of the most honourable and disinterested friendship, he was seized with a fever at Rome, where, as he saw that place had rather more excited my curiosity than any other we had visited, he had prolonged our stay at the season of the *mal-aria*, when it is deserted even by the natives who possess the means of removal.

“ I need not tell you with what solicitude I attended the sick-bed of a friend who had done so much for me. His danger incurred for me, and the anguish it gave me, convinced me I had something still to lose. I could not save him! *He* too died! He died, and left me alone in the world, which did not now contain one being interested for me, or for whom I felt any interest.

“ I attended the body of my dead friend to England: that seemed to be the only duty I now had to fulfil on earth. I saw his remains deposited with  
those

those of his ancestors; for, though he had very considerable property in Jamaica, he was the last of an ancient English family. I was his executor; and endeavouring most strictly to perform the directions given in his will, I remained some time at his family-house, sorting his papers, and destroying such as I knew he would not choose should be inspected by his heirs, to whom he was almost a stranger. Among these I found many manuscripts, as well as printed tracts, on the condition of the Africans and their state of slavery in the American colonies. Accustomed to consider these people as part of the estates to which they belonged, I had never properly reflected on this subject before; and when I now thought of it, I was amazed at the indifference with which I had looked on and been a party in oppression, from which all the sentiments of my heart revolted.

“Determined no longer to indulge this  
guilty

guilty apathy, I found I had now an object which was not unworthy of engaging the thoughts of a reasonable being. As a considerable proprietor, I had I supposed the means of doing some good to this miserable race ; and to do them good I devoted myself with all of that mind and of those powers which my own unexampled miseries had left me.

“ For this purpose I repaired to this island. Let me not dwell on what followed. If I was disgusted with the mere representation of scenes which I had never witnessed since I had made use my reason, I found the reality of oppression, in which I was myself a party, utterly insupportable. But my endeavours at reformation were not only considered as the idle dreams of a visionary, but as being dangerous to the welfare of the island. I was not easily deterred by apprehensions of personal inconvenience, and I persevered, till the examples I gave of lenity to and eman-  
 cipation

icipation of the negroes became so much circumstances of fear, that there was, I understood, a resolution taken to confine me as a lunatic; and my brother, the man born of the same parents, who had from my infancy been my enemy, was to be put in possession of my estates. In a government remote from that of the parent state, intrigue does every thing, and equity has as little to do as reason. The party against me increased every day in numbers and in acrimony. My seat in the council I had long since resigned, and I was accused of fomenting the discontents among the black people, and of having communicated with the Maroons. In a word, my situation became extremely uneasy to myself, and worse than useless to the unhappy people whose condition it had been my purpose to ameliorate; for greater severities were often exercised on those in whose favour I

had

had interfered, than if I had never pleaded for them the cause of humanity.

“ Repulsed, therefore, from my purpose, and disgusted with every system I had seen, I resolved to retire wholly from the world, and hide myself from the spectacle of human misery which every where empoisoned the scenes of nature, and made me abhor the species to which I belonged. As to give freedom to the people who were considered as part of my estate was not possible, and I knew, if the plans of my enemies succeeded, that they would fall into the power of my brother, who was reckoned the most severe and unfeeling man in the island, I determined to let my property on short leases, with a reservation as to the work to be imposed on the people, and liberty frequently to inspect them. Far from making one of them subservient even to my particular convenience, I did not keep a servant about my person,

son, but, conveying a few necessaries to the excavated rock among the mountains, took up my abode wholly there; a very few of the supplies of artificial life being sufficient for me, and those few easily to be obtained from persons whom I could engage among those who had been formerly in my service.

“ The insurrection among the people of colour, which had been long frequent, and only partially and for a time suppressed, now raged with more dangerous violence: but at that time, I mean on my first retiring to my solitude, their desire of vengeance towards Europeans was so far from being blindly indiscriminate, that, alone and defenceless as I was, I became the object of their respect and even affection; and the only danger I have incurred has been from my own countrymen, and among them those of my own rank; for they have more than once attempted to imprison me, under pretence that I have chosen

chosen such an unusual residence for the purpose of intriguing with the insurgents and fugitives, and abetting them in their sanguinary purposes against the landed proprietors of the island. As not the shadow of proof could be brought against me, but as it was on the other hand made evident that I had, on more than one occasion, thrown myself among them, restrained their violence, and induced them to return peaceably to their abodes in the mountains; these attempts and others, made at the instigation of my unhappy brother to prove me a lunatic, from my eccentric manner of life, have hitherto failed."

" ' They may not always fail,' said I to my unhappy and singular protector; ' they may not always fail, for malice irritated by avarice is hardly ever weary: and you see, that the continued outrages of these unhappy people render even the suspicion of wishing them less wretched, a crime  
which

which may involve in very serious embarrassment those who are suspected. You have now met one relation, who, though none can make you amends for the cruel losses you have sustained, will find the greatest pleasure of *her* life in contributing to the comfort of yours. Need I add, that the delight of mine will be to assist her in paying this debt of gratitude, duty, and affection?"

" " I expected this proposal from you, Denbigh," replied Mr. Maynard; "and if any thing in the world could re-animate my sad heart, and give any value to my existence, it would be to see Henrietta and you happy: but, wounded as I have been, believe me, it is only in perfect solitude I find life supportable. As to danger from those who call themselves my enemies, I despise it: and, alas! Denbigh! where will he who ventures to dissent from established prejudices, and to controvert the maxims of policy which the tyranny of custom has established,

blished,



blished, that the strong may trample on the weak—where, I say, will he who dares do this, go and not find enemies?—My brother, unhappy man! has paid the forfeit of his violence and his crimes; and for the rest of the people in power here, who have no motive for their enmity, but because I dare not act against my conscience as they do, I fear them as little as I love them. Fear! do *I* name fear? I who have sustained in my own person every degree of misery, and who have yet had courage to live? No, Denbigh! He who has learned as I have done to suffer has nothing more to dread!’

“ I found,” resumed Denbigh, by the vehemence of his manner, that this was not a moment to press on my friend my wishes that he would renounce his solitary manner of life. In a solemn and lower tone of voice he again spoke :

“ ‘ For what, my friend, should I return into the world?—For domestic happiness?—Ah! no. However I may  
love

love Henrietta and you, and I believe I should love you very much, nothing can restore to me the son I have lost, and cruel recollection would force itself upon me in despite of all I could do to attach my mind to other objects; and to speak sincerely, it would seem almost a prophanation of my sacred affection to his memory, were I to wean my mind from its habit of thinking continually of him. This may not be philosophical, it may not be pious; but I am neither a stoic nor a divine. You must recollect too, that the woman who bears my name, and the daughter she brought me, are, in my opinion, impediments to my return to England, which no inducement could engage me to conquer. Towards the child I could not do my duty so well as those to whom she is intrusted; and the mother I have sworn never more to behold. The friend to whom I was the most attached is no more. A martyr to his affection for me,

he lost his own life in the generous exertions he made to restore some value to mine. Would you have me seek in defultory society, in the common parties and pursuits of life, a remedy against the malady of the heart? All those parties and pursuits I have tried, when I was more capable of enjoying them than I am now, and I know their value well.

“ ‘ Of the emptiness and wearisomeness of what are called the pleasures of the town, every man is probably sensible long before he is five-and-twenty, and I never had any enjoyment in field sports: those two resources, therefore, afford me nothing with which I could beguile one hour of my remaining life. To me the gaming-table and the turf never presented any thing but spectacles of strange infatuation, ending almost certainly in repentance. In the conversation of men of letters I found, while I inhabited the world, the most amusement; but, since certain events  
which

which have long been foreseen have intermingled politics with every discussion, the republic of letters is so disturbed by party violence, and there is so much pedantry and pretence puffed by political favour into fashion; while scurrility, disgraceful to those who think it can support any cause, is so disgustingly frequent; and taste is so totally annihilated by the blind virulence of mercenary writers, that I sickened amidst the societies that once delighted me, and since I left England I believe all this has grown worse. To such, therefore, I shall never return. No, my dear Denbigh! leave me to the solitude which alone is soothing to my heart. It will be doubly dear to me, since my residence in it has been the means of saving and serving you and Henrietta. Do not imagine that I shall ever forget you. Amidst the awful stillness of the night, when, leaving my sleepless bed, I frequently wander forth, and, gazing on the

placis above me, ask of the Divine Omnipotence that pervades all nature, why he has placed me in a world where only anguish has been my portion, I will try to believe that evil, however heavily it has fallen on me, is only partial, and that good and happiness predominate in the general system. I will carry my imagination to you and Henrietta; and there will yet be in the world two beings on whom I can think with pleasure; but I will not by being with you shade your felicity with my gloom, or suffer your society to become necessary to me. I can here only indulge the habit of my mind without intruding on others; and as to the apprehensions you entertain of personal danger from the Maroons, believe me, Denbigh, these men, whom we call savages, have neither the blindness nor the ingratitude of the polished Europeans; and they will not injure him who has been, as far as his power extended, their benefactor.

benefactor. But were it otherwise, is it for me to fear death? for me, whose only gratification it is to converse in idea with the dead?

“ ‘ Start not, my friend, but hear me. Such is my weakness, that I delight in imagining the spirit of “ my brave !\*, my beautiful !” revisits me. It may impress you with apprehensions of my insanity ; but it will not excite *your* ridicule, if I repeat, “ *that when I lie down to rest and the moon looks into my cave †,*” his shade often stands before me ; the air sighs among the boughs, and it is his voice ; I look up to the stars, and behold in those orbs of ethereal fire the habitations of souls so pure as his. But at other times — No, I will not relate to you my darker reflections ; yet even *they* are preferable to what those that afflicted me in the world were, whenever a worthless or insignificant young man, and I

\* The tragedy of Douglas.

† Ossian.

saw but too many of them, was obtruded on me, I felt all the cruelty of my destiny; and my mind, recurring to what he was, my lost, my murdered boy! I have exclaimed, Wherefore should *such* an animal as that exist in high health, and my son be in his grave?

“ Why should a dog, a horse, a rat, have life,  
 “ And thou no breath at all? Thou’lt come no  
 more!

“ Oh, never, never, never! \*——

“ ‘ From this description of my feelings, which more than half the world would, I am well aware, call madness, you will judge, my friend, how unfit I am to return to a place in that world. It is among my rocks and trees, then, that I can indulge this weakness, if weakness it be; and there are times when I rise above it. When, alone in my cavern amid the mountains, the night-storm and land-wind threaten to dismantle them of

\* Shakspeare.

their magnificent shades, and the rocks tremble to their centre; or, when I listen to the heavy waves bursting against the northern cliffs of the island; when the clouds that bear the thunder are gathering around me, and afar off at sea I mark the signs of an approaching tornado; then it is that I feel myself elevated, sublimed above this earth, and partake in some degree of the beatitude of those beings who dwell beyond the tempest and the earthquake. Disengaged from all that binds others to this planet, I rather court than fear the phenomena, which are likely to detach me from it physically, as already I am morally emancipated.'

" ' You will easily believe', continued Mr. Denbigh, " that after the close of this conversation I desisted from any further attempts to prevail on my singular and unhappy benefactor to accompany us to England. I now return to the sequel of my poor Henrietta's ter-



rific adventures, which I will repeat as nearly as I can in the first person, and in her own words."



*The Story of Henrietta concluded.*

"ON the evening," said my poor girl, "after I had written the last lines you have seen, my uneasiness was considerably increased by the appearance of Amponah, who seemed to be in the greatest agitation and uneasiness. Yet when I urged him to say, whether my father was coming, or what was the cause of his being so much affected, his confusion appeared to increase, and his answers, vague and contradictory as they were, struck me with more terror than if the objects of my dread had been clearly defined. To the two most hideous causes of fear, the arrival of my father and Mr. Sawkins, and an attack of the Maroons on the plantation, he added a third.

third, by saying, that the Obi women had been in the woods employed on their spells, and they discovered that some great misfortune was about to happen to me, and would happen if I did not immediately leave the house and take shelter in some other place.

“ I cannot convey an idea of the effect which all this, delivered in Amponah’s strange jargon, had on me. His wild looks ; the interest he seemed to take in my safety, for which it appeared as if his fears were so great as almost to deprive him of his reason ; all contributed to distract and distress me, while there was not another person in the house to whom I could communicate my apprehensions, or of whom I could ask advice. Gasping for breath, I went to the window, and certainly heard noises enough among the woods and high lands, to confirm what Amponah had told me, that an immediate attack of the Maroons was to be feared. He assured

me too, that on more than one plantation, four or five miles off, the buildings and canes had been fired, and that to the south-east I might see the flames. He came in a few minutes afterwards, in apparently increased terror, to tell me, that he had just discovered that a much greater number of the people than he had at first supposed were not only disaffected, but, irritated by the hard treatment they had received, waited only the arrival of their master, to wreak their vengeance more completely on his person than they could do on merely his property. Oh! think, my dear Denbigh! the effect that all this, which was indeed but too probable, must have on the mind of your poor Henrietta!

“ I now for the first time thought of my father’s presence as desirable, since I could not imagine that in such an hour of peril he would persist in concluding the detested marriage; but Amponah, who saw that I caught at this hope, as-

fured me, that I might satisfy myself the preparations still went on, and that a party of military were supposed to be on their way to meet my father, and protect him and his guests from every apprehension. Though this was a contradiction to some part of what he had told me before, the general impression of terror on my mind prevented my attending to minute probabilities; and the negro girl, who now waited on me, said all that was calculated to increase the agonies of fear which I suffered. On the other hand, Amponah, on whose faith and attachment I had the greatest reliance, and who was I believed much more intelligent than the rest of the negroes, proposed to me to escape. He said he could undertake to conduct me through the woods by a path so little known or frequented, that there would be no danger of my being met by any one, and that he would take a mule from the stable, and lead him round to a place

beyond the wood, from whence he could conduct me in safety to the house of a lady he named to me ; and then go himself to Mrs. Apthorp, who was not far off, and who would, to use the man's phrase, ' be my good friend, and make peace with massa.' The scheme was plausible ; my situation was desperate ; and to deliberate was, I thought, to hazard irrecoverable misery. I decided then to trust myself to the guidance of Amponah that very evening. Yet such was my terror and reluctance that I should have shrunk from this dangerous confidence, even after I had agreed to give it, had not a negro arrived with intelligence, as he assured me, that my father and Mr. Sawkins, with the man of the church who was to perform the ceremony, were at the plantation of one of his friends, only eleven miles off, and would be at the house before the noon of the next day.

“ As soon, therefore, as it was night, I  
crossed

crossed the garden with trembling steps, and found Amponah waiting for me without. He had a brace of pistols, and a dark lantern; and assured me, as falteringly I questioned him, that he had taken every precaution to secure my safety. It was soon too late to retreat, and, in a state of mind not easy to be imagined, I followed his steps through the winding and rough path of a wood of cedar, and other large and shadowy trees, where it was soon totally dark, and even the silence of my conductor and his footsteps were now become objects of terror to me. I spoke to him. He said we should soon come to the place where he had left the mule; but there was something in his manner that aggravated my apprehensions. I thought he no longer spoke with his accustomed respect. He spoke as if he felt that I was in his power. I had declined taking his arm to assist me in walking; though I began to totter through fear and fatigue, for  
the

the way seemed endless, and became more rugged at every step. I was at length obliged to complain; for we had now passed what could not be less than two miles, still going up or descending among the woods. Just as I declared my doubts of being able to go any further, we were in a sort of ravine formed by torrents of water in the rainy season, over which a large tree was thrown to facilitate the passage when the torrent raged beneath. Here it was absolutely necessary for me to suffer Amponah to assist me; he almost carried me in his arms across. When we reached the opposite bank, I disengaged myself from his hold; and assuming the manner which I felt to be necessary, though my heart sunk as I spoke, I ordered him to tell me exactly how much farther we had to go. Instead of a direct reply, the negro\* turned towards me; and suddenly throw-

\* What is here related is taken from a real event, though not happening under similar circumstances.

ing the light of the lantern on his countenance, I saw his eyes roll, and his features assume an expression which still haunts my dreams, when fearful visions of the past flit over my mind.

“ He made a step or two towards me. I recoiled, and, almost on the brink of the precipice we had just passed, no idea but that of throwing myself into it occurred to me when he thus spoke :

“ ‘ Miffy, I tell trute now—I love you. I no slave now; I *my* master and yours. Miffy, there no difference now; you be my wife. I love you from a child! You live with me : nay, nay, no help for it; I take care of that.’

“ Thus speaking, he approached me; and all the horrors to which I saw myself liable were but too certain. Escape there was none; but the hollow we had passed was more than deep enough to have destroyed me in my fall; and stepping back as the wretch advanced, I seized a sapling that grew on the edge of  
the



the excavated rock ; by which I held, declaring to Amponah, with a degree of firmness at which I am now astonished, that if he advanced another step I would throw myself down the precipice and perish. Trusting, however, to his strength and my weakness, he was advancing, and I prepared for the dark and desperate plunge, recommending my soul to the Being who gave it, when a volley of shot from I know not where levelled my assailant with the ground, and I fell half stunned, yet not insensible, at the foot of the tree to which I had clung.

“ I was immediately surrounded by men of various shades of colour ; negroes, maroons, quadroons, I knew not what. One among them, who was evidently their chief, advanced towards me, spoke to me in English, and, by his voice and manner, tried to re-assure me. All the recollection and presence of mind I could command did not, however, serve to give me any confidence of safety. I  
 seemed

seemed to have been delivered from one evil, only to have fallen into another. The noises, the gestures, the eager manner of these strange people filled me with terror and dismay. The Maroon, however, who commanded them, and to whom they gave the title of *General*, appeared to have not only more authority but to be more humanized than the rest. To *him*, therefore, with a degree of resolution which now excites my surprise, I addressed myself. I told him who I was, and the cause which had compelled me to leave my father's house, and put myself into the guidance of one of the negroes. The general, for so I must distinguish him, received this information as not being new to him. He said what he thought might tend to console me, though it had a very contrary effect; and ordering his men to cut down some boughs, and make a sort of litter, which they effected in a few moments, I was placed in it; and the general walking by my  
side

fide with a pistol in his hand, they began to ascend the mountain, near whose base I was when this meeting happened. All this passed by the light of torches, which had been produced and lit a moment after the appearance of this party of people.

“Denbigh! I will not attempt to convey to you an idea of what passed in my mind during this fearful hour; for it was at least that before the cavalcade, of which I was so miserable as to form the principal object, arrived at the place I shall afterwards describe. At the moment I was deprived of all sense and resolution; for a number of women came out from a dark cavern overhung with wood, to meet the persons they had all the night been expecting. Their clamours and strange noises were sufficient to have alarmed me: but, judge of my consternation when I learned, by an harangue from the general himself, which he delivered with an air of authority, as  
he

he commanded them to lift me from the litter, that he had in the woods rescued a beautiful white woman from a negro, and had brought her to be added to the number of his wives. He, therefore, as he was obliged to go out again for some hours, directed them to take great care of me, and cause me to take refreshment, and induce me to consider myself as one of their number at his return.

“ Overcome with the variety of horrors I had undergone, my mind could no longer resist personal fatigue; and when two or three wild-looking female dark faces advanced, and, taking me up among them, carried me into the cavern; I no longer knew what happened, but sunk into total insensibility; having only preserved my recollection long enough to know that the men, after calling for a supply of drink, again disappeared; a circumstance which would have lessened my terror, if the aspect of the women,  
and

and the orders I heard given, had left me any power to argue with my fears.

“ I remained many hours incapable of reflection, and then recovered from this half-conscious state, in which all I seemed to know was, that something very dreadful had befallen me, when to my opening eyes objects presented themselves which I shall never forget.

“ I was lying on the ground on a parcel of those blue and white rugs of cotton woven and dyed by the negroes. Above me, I saw the high rough arch of a rocky cavern ; to which light was admitted only by the entrance at some distance, half obscured by foliage, and the evening was approaching. I raised myself on my elbow, and looked around me. I saw, at the entrance of the cavern, a group of negro and mulatto children ; and near them, a little within it, three negresses or mulattos. One of the children observed me move, and exclaiming, ‘ Buckra, buckra, live !’ the  
oldest

oldest of the women turned and came towards me. I never beheld so hideous, so disgusting a creature; and such was the dread with which I was inspired as she hung over me, that I was once more on the point of losing my misery in insensibility.

“The fearful wretch seemed, however, to express a strange sort of satisfaction in seeing me revive. She beckoned to another who did not appear equally delighted, and bade her, as I understood by her signs, bring her something for me from another part of the cavern. This negress was a fat and heavy creature, her neck and arms ornamented with beads, strung seeds, and pieces of mother of pearl; and though there was an affeclation of European dress, she was half naked, and her frightful bosom loaded with finery was displayed most disgustingly. Reluctantly, and eyeing me malignantly, she reached what the old woman demanded, and then,  
with

with an expression it is not easy to describe, withdrew, and seemed, as did her companion, anxiously to listen at the entrance of the cavern.

“ The elder woman now offered me something in a cocoa-nut shell, which I put by, for I thought it impossible for me to swallow. But I soon found I had no choice. The menacing attitude and countenance assumed by the forcerefs terrified me into immediate submission; and while she stood chattering over me, I forced myself to take what she held; which was, I believe, rum mixed with goat’s milk. I prayed, as well as the confused and stunned state of my mind would permit me to pray, that it might be something which should speedily end my wretched existence. The third of the women was a mulatto, younger and less terrific to my imagination than the others: but her disposition seemed to differ in nothing from the fat negress for, approaching me, as I had again laid

myself

myself down, and hid my face with one of my hands, she pointed out to her companions the bracelets I had on my wrists, which, together with a pair of small gold ear-rings, and a picture of my aunt tied to a riband round my neck, were all my ornaments. These they took away, and divided, I imagine, between them. The elder, soon after returning, took off my pockets, in which there were two smelling-bottles, a pocket-book, and an inlaid tooth-pick case. These things were set in gold; of which they seemed to know the value, and to be mightily delighted with them. My clothes were next examined; and a petticoat of fine muslin and a cloak of the same, in which I had been wrapped, were appropriated without ceremony; but my upper garment, which was a dark chintz, seemed not to tempt them, and they left me in possession of it.

“The old woman, who was, as I afterwards found, the general’s mother, opposed



posed this plunder of my trinkets and clothes with all her power; but the other two, who were his wives, seemed to hold her authority in contempt. After a time, the two who were the general's wives went out together. The old woman remained, and, after offering me every thing she thought would most completely answer the directions she had received from her son, of which I rejected the greater part, she went to her bed, as I imagined, in another cave, or at least in another and distant part of that where I was.

“The children too, who had surrounded her, were all gone to the places where they slept, and the cavern became silent. I heard nothing but the sighing of the wind without, and so perfect was the stillness, that I fancied it possible I might escape; but, perhaps, only the exhausted state in which I was, the weakness of my body affecting my judgment, could have induced me to form  
such

such a scheme. I arose, however, and creeping with difficulty to the entrance of the cavern, I looked around me in a state of mind so confused and bewildered, that I cannot now distinctly relate what I then felt. The sky above me was illuminated with myriads of stars. There was that peculiar clearness and lustre in the blue arch where they sparkled, that is seen only in these regions. My spirits were revived: I breathed more freely, and my soul once more resuming its powers, I was able to supplicate Heaven for mercy and deliverance.

“As if the great Governor of the Universe had heard me it was already at hand. I saw, coming from the ascent among the trees, two female figures, in whom I soon recognized the general’s two wives. The younger of them immediately approached me.

“She inquired of me in a language which my solicitude to comprehend her,

taught me to understand whether it was not contrary to my wishes that I was where I now found myself.

"I answered, that it was most undoubtedly so, and that there was nothing I would not do to acquit myself of the obligation I should owe to the person who would deliver me from it.

"After a short conversation, I found that this woman, long the favourite sultana of the Maroon chief, had no inclination to have another rival in his favour; and that, after a consultation with the other woman, who joined in the desire to appropriate this hero of the hills to themselves, the younger, who called herself Mimba Qua, had resolved to try my disposition to depart, or if I had shewn no such disposition, to murder me!—for though she did not say so, I perceived that such was the resolution these rival ladies had taken.

"My agonizing eagerness to escape, however, was too unequivocal to leave them

them a moment's doubt of my sincerity. There was not a second of time to lose. The negress undertook to watch the old woman; the mulatto, to conduct me. My fears lent me strength. I followed, or was led by my conductress to the hermitage, whose inhabitant I have since found was my uncle! I will not attempt to describe my reception. You have seen him, you have heard him, and may imagine how such a man received, at the risk of his safety and life, a wretched young woman, of his own colour and nation, though he did not then know she was the daughter of his brother.

“What happened at the cave of the Maroons, how the women contrived to divert the suspicions, or appease the anger of the general, or whether some attack of the troops sent against them prevented any pursuit, I had no means of ascertaining. I only know, that after remaining two days in my uncle's

wild abode, a stay which greatly restored my strength, Providence in its mercy conducted you, my dear Denbigh! thither, and what followed I need not relate."



Here my friend Denbigh concluded the narrative of his wife's sufferings. They were married immediately, the governor serving Henrietta as a father at the ceremony; they embarked as soon as possible afterwards for England, where they have now been a few weeks only, and Denbigh is looking out for the purchase of an estate in England, having divested himself, though at some loss, of all his property on the other side the Atlantic.

Here then, my friends, the eventful history closes. Of me you will hear farther from another country perhaps; for I meditate an excursion, of which I will not mention the particulars, because

cause I have not quite decided upon them in my own mind, and know that at all events they will be too eccentric to obtain at least in the prospectus your approbation.

Adieu.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.













